

# 雪鹰领主

书著

我吃西红柿

我吃  
西红柿



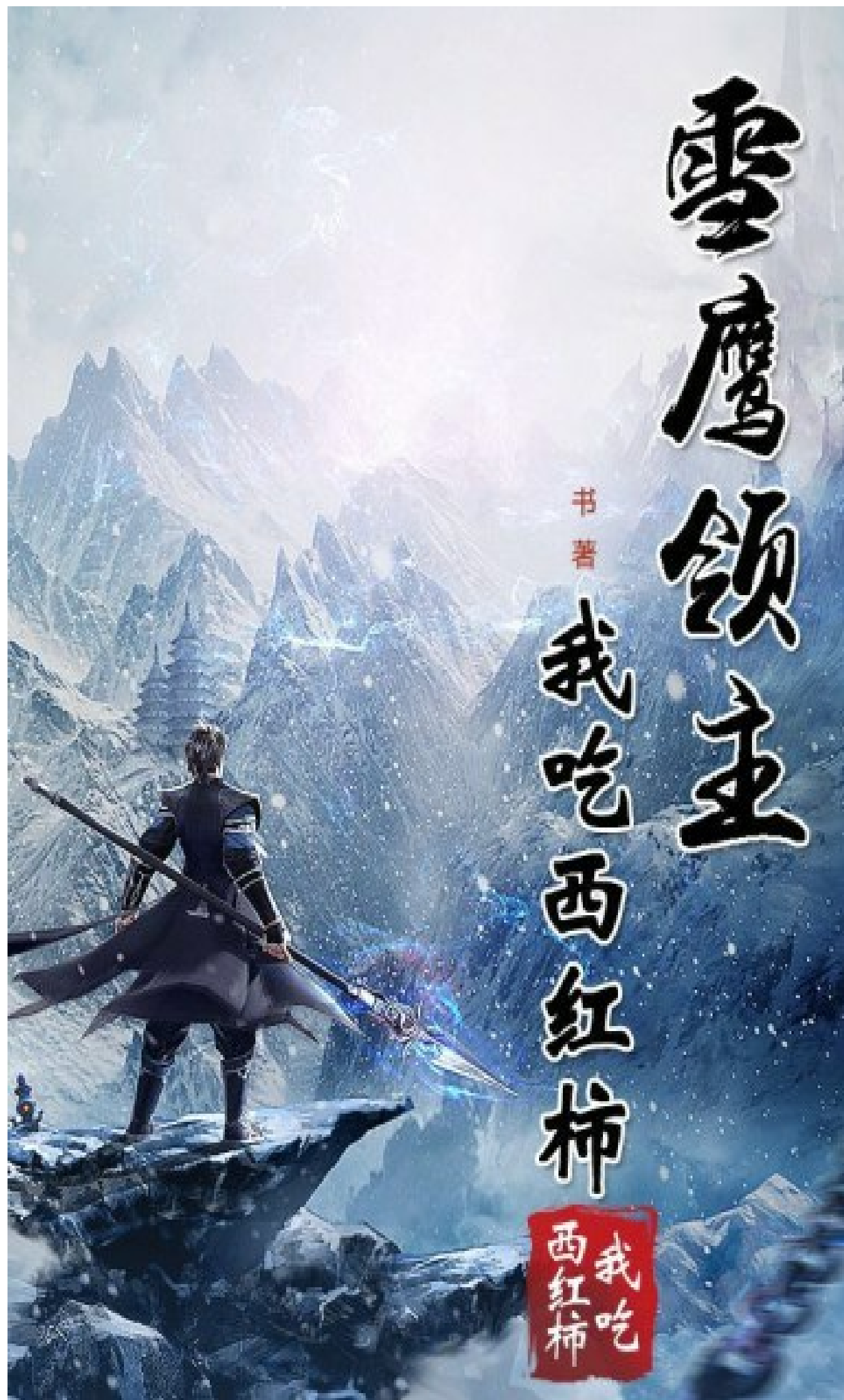


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# Lord Xue Ying Book 2

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## Book 2: Chapter 1 – Bloodshed Tavern and Dragon Mountain Mansion

Under a pavilion, along the corridor within the castle.

Both Xue Ying and Lord Si An settled down facing each other. Servants constantly served snacks and hot tea. Zong Ling, Tong San, You Tu and others waited just outside the corridor.

Savouring the hot tea in his hands, Lord Si An gazed at the snowy blizzard that raged outside.

“My Lord, you live in such a wonderful place. Unlike the city, which is plagued with noisy crowds who can be heard even in the wee hours of the night, your place is both tranquil and without restrictions.” Lord Si An chuckled, “After I retire, I will look for such a peaceful place to relax in.”

Xue Ying smiled, “There are many who desire your high status that would normally be out their reach.”

“High status? I am just a person in charge of a Dragon Mountain Mansion in a small town, yet you are speaking of high status.” Lord Si An replied before presenting a small stack of gold, “Here is eight hundred gold! Although the bounty for Ge Bin is not much, I still want you to have it.”

Xue Ying took it from him.

Prisoners of the Empire... Generally gold bounties would be reserved for star ranked criminals or for those who had committed heinous crimes. Average bandits were not eligible for such handsome rewards.

“This is the Black Iron Order.” Si An presented yet another item, a black token, with the two words ‘Dragon Mountain’ carved on it , “Every citizen who has the strength of a Meteor Knight will receive this token.”

“Strength of a Meteor Knight? Black Iron Order?” Xue Ying appeared to be

preoccupied by his thoughts.

“There are two types of tokens.”

Si An continued, “There is the Black Iron Order, and the Bronze Order! Those who have the strength of a Meteor Knight can obtain the Iron Order, while only those who possess the remarkable strength can obtain the Bronze Order... Those of higher strength would be a Transcendent Knight! Transcendents make up the entirety of our Xia Clan’s and the Empire’s strength. But of course, Transcendents live in an entirely different world, it’s useless to talk of them now.”

“Take this Black Iron Order, it belongs solely to you, and it can be used for many purposes.” Si An placed the token before Xue Ying.

Xue Ying took a closer look. Other than the words ‘Dragon Mountain’, there were complex lined designs that seemed to naturally cross and combine with expert coordination. It was a beautiful sight.

Si An waved his hand, and a small stack of papers were brought forth: “This is the Dragon Mountain Mansion’s Imperial Report’, it records the general events in the Empire, and provides detailed information about happenings in the Azure River County. For example, you killed a Silver Moon Wolf King and single handedly annihilated the entire Bent Blade Union. Your deeds will be recorded in the next report, and all those strong individuals who are in possession of this report will be able to see what you have done.

“Oh?” Xue Ying flipped through the report he received.

The report had over ten pages, the first page detailed the important incidents that occurred outside the Azure River County. The rest recorded all the events that passed within.

“Dragon Mountain Calendar, Year 9623, November 19th, Azure River County. The fifth division entered the Mountain Range of Desolation. On the third day, they encountered a rank 6 magical beast, ‘Darkness Demon Bear’ which awakened from its deep slumber. Two thousand soldiers perished from this destructive foe.....”

“Dragon Mountain Calendar, Year 9623, November 10th, Azure River County.

A Transcendent Level Knight appeared in Serene Sky City. He appeared to as a bare footed old man with white hair who was deranged and in tattered clothing.....”

“November 5th, the marriage between Si family and Zhang family.....”

.....

The ‘Imperial Report’ recorded all the important events and messages of all the districts in Azure River County. It even contained urgent official information, and included the dates of each event.

As for the anecdotes from the districts, the documentation was less restrictive.

Xue Ying was awed by the report, realizing that there were many things happening within the thousand miles of the Azure River County.

“Lord Si An, there is actually a Transcendent in Serene Sky City?” Xue Ying asked curiously.

“And he disappeared without a trace after that.” Lord Si An mused, “Those Transcendents are of extremely high status. The things they wish for and desire are different from the rest of us. For them, travelling throughout the world is a normal thing. It is recorded in the report to notify all the clans, so that they do not accidentally offend a Transcendent! Disaster will surely follow if one is offended! An entire tribe might cease to exist!”

Xue Ying nodded.

That’s right.

Street beggars were always randomly bullied, but according to this notice, any beggar could turn out to be a Transcendent Knight! Who would not be cautious?

“The existence of a Transcendent is extremely rare; within the entire Empire’s nineteen provinces, there are just a few of them. Take a look at our Azure River County, while our county is quite big, it has yet to produce a single Transcendent!” Lord Si An shook his head in woe, “The ‘Imperial Report’ is published every month and you should read it when you have to time in order to gain an understanding of the current events within the Empire, be they big or small. In this edition, the report also serves as a warning to be mindful of



individuals that should not be offended.”

“The newspaper is just for pleasure.”

“The following items I am going to give you are gradually getting more important.”

“The second most important items are these two books!” Lord Si An’s expression turned stern as he swiftly presented two sealed books, one canvassed in black with the two words ‘Dragon Mountain’ on the cover. The other had a red cover and a drawing of a dagger dripping with crimson blood imprinted on it.

“These books are?” Xue Ying inquired curiously as he stared at them.

“This one is the Dragon Mountain Book, and is recorded by our very own Dragon Mountain Mansion. While the other is the Bloodshed Book, written by the Bloodshed Tavern.” Lord Si An replied.

Xue Ying retrieved the two thick books.

Xue Ying flipped open the black Dragon Mountain Book, within it was a long list of names in descending order based on rankings, with a brief introduction of each person next to their name.

“The Bloodshed Book is a book of murderers!” Lord Si An’s words made Xue Ying gasp in surprise.

“Book of murderers?” Xue Ying glanced at the scarlet book at his side.

“Yes, the history of the Bloodshed Tavern is shrouded with mystery, so much so that the Dragon Mountain Mansion dares not to provoke them! Every city throughout the Empire, contains at least one Bloodshed Tavern.” Lord Si An continued, “According to their number of kills, the Bloodshed Tavern was able to fill this book with the nicknames of many killers! After all, killers usually like to maintain their anonymity.”

“The other Dragon Mountain Book is more authoritative and is viewed as a matter of great importance to all the powers within the Empire.” A proud expression was plastered on Lord Si An’s face, “The Dragon Mountain Book is our very own recording of the top three thousand Bronze Order powers throughout the entirety of the Empire’s nineteen provinces.” Lord Si An

continued, “From first to the three thousandth, every power has been ranked through severe and careful consideration in accordance to their fighting strength and further detailed evaluation aspects.”

“The entire Empire’s three thousand strongest powers?” Xue Ying’s eyes gleamed with interest.

Bronze Order.

Only those with recognised fighting strength were eligible to obtain the Bronze Order! Here was a document containing the top three thousand powers.

“Due to the scarce number of Transcendents in the Empire, there is no record of their rankings.” Lord Si An explained, “Those a step away from the Transcendent rank are proclaimed to be supreme, and many are impressive enough to be compared to actual Transcendents. In the entire Empire, there are countless individuals who possess such strength.”

“The entire Azure River County has a total of twelve Bronze Order powers. And only five are recorded within the Dragon Mountain Book.” Lord Si An elaborated.

Xue Ying nodded slightly in response, the Dragon Mountain Book had a limitation of three thousand positions, and not every Bronze Order holder can be included.”

“These five powers.”

“Ranked fifth, is Chang Qing Ze with an overall rank of 2895.”

“Ranked fourth, is Zhang Yong with an overall rank of 2822.”

“Ranked third, is Dan Chen with an overall rank of 1259.”

“Ranked second, is Si Liang Hong with an overall rank of 569.”

“Ranked first, is Xiang Pan Yun with an overall rank of 525.”

Lord Si An recited the detailed rankings of the five personnel with ease.

## Book 2: Chapter 2 – Gaining Merit Points for Humanity's Xia Clan

Lord Si An continued, “Si Liang Hong is a well-known Legend rank mage, who has lived past 500 years! A normal mortal can normally live up to a maximum of 200 years, but the transformation into a Blood Demon allowed her to increase her longevity. This old hag, who has lived through five centuries.....has unfathomable strength. Even the Blood Demon Tower she resides in for practice consists of countless traps that can keep even Transcendents out.

“Si Clan, the utmost honourable family tribe of the entire Azure River County! The prefecture magistrate of Azure River County, the general of the army of County City, and even the lord of several other cities such as Water Rites Town and Windy Town belong to the Si Clan. Nearly 80-90% of the county's cities belong to the Si Clan! Furthermore, they occupy many prestigious titles and positions throughout Azure River County.”

“In other words, in the Azure River County, the Si Clan can easily manipulate situations to their likings.” Si An stated calmly.

Xue Ying gasped in surprise, “The prefecture magistrate, the general, and several other mayors.....So many important positions are taken by the Si Clan?”

“The entire Empire has always been like this.”

“This is the not the world of mortals, but the world of Transcendents!” Si An proclaimed. “Si Liang Hong that old witch. While she is not a Transcendent, she is just a stone's throw away. Furthermore, with her excellent relationships with many renowned Transcendent Families, she is able to obtain considerate amount of management power. The management of power is in the grasp of the Si Clan. In other words... if the Si Clan deemed you guilty of certain crimes, there is no way out of it even if you are innocent! Likewise, if they deemed you innocent, then even if you are guilty, you wouldn't be guilty anymore!”

Xue Ying was still recovering from this shocking news, “This, this...”

“Have you already forgotten? Despite being nobles, your parents were captured and taken away from just a decree?” Lord Si An continued swiftly.

Xue Ying’s facial expression sunk gradually.

“Those who are Transcendents are able to send out those decrees! They can even manipulate the law to a certain extent!” Lord Si An explained.

“Does the Mo Yang Clan have any Transcendent beings?” Xue Ying pressed on.

Saving his parents was a wish that he had been pursuing for years.

“They have one Transcendent being, but he is a pseudo-Transcendent.” Lord Si An replied, “Those types of pseudo-Transcendents are the weakest amongst all the Transcendents. I am afraid Si Liang Hong, that old witch, and Xiang Pan Yun, that deranged figure, have potential on par to that of the Mo Yang Clan’s Transcendent.”

“Pseudo-Transcendent?” Xue Ying hesitated.

“The Mo Yang Clan had been around for ages with one generation after another. It was an extremely powerful Transcendent that founded the first clan bloodline. However, after the death of that Transcendent, the Mo Yang Clan has begun to deteriorate..... Fortunately, because of their deep rooted background, around a few decades ago, a member of the family’s Legend Knights used some form of shortcut and managed to enter the world of Transcendents. However, because he is still one of the lowest ranks amongst the Transcendents, even some of the peak Legend ranks were able to defeat him.

Xue Ying instantly remembered his book.

In his book, he recalled seeing that ‘Woodcutter Knight’ who had awakened their primordial bloodline.

That Woodcutter Knight was able to kill a Transcendent with just an axe while only being a Legend ranker. It was entirely possible to defeat a Transcendent while only being a Legend Ranker.

The Woodcutter Knight became even more invincible among the Transcendents after becoming a Transcendent, and became known as the

‘Strongest’ of that era.

“The matters concerning Transcendents are far out of reach.” Lord Si An chuckled, “All I wanted to tell you is, do not offend those of Legend rank and higher. Each Legend ranker possesses tremendous strength! Especially Si Liang Hong and Xiang Pan Yun, who are the most frightening figures of Azure River County, as they represent the two skies of Azure River County.

“The Si Clan is deeply rooted into the Azure River County.”

“Xiang Pan Yun is a terrifyingly crazed fellow as well.” Lord Si An commented.

“Crazed?” Xue Ying inquired curiously.

“Yes.” Lord Si An replied, “On the Bloodshed scroll, not many choose to disclose their real names, but Xiang Pan Yun is one of the few who did! Not only that, he is also extremely fond of killing. However, all the missions are received from the Bloodshed Tavern so he is not guilty of murder.”

“Killing is not a crime if it is your mission from Bloodshed Tavern?” Xue Ying frowned.

“You can go to the Bloodshed Tavern for missions; however, the bounty of the missions are decided by the tavern itself! The Bloodshed Tavern will take a commission of 80%, leaving 20% for the hunter.” Lord Si An continued, “The rewards issued by the Bloodshed Tavern are set according to the target’s rank, strength, background and other aspects. The bounties are usually quite high.”

Lord Si An whispered in audible range, “You should know that Bloodshed Tavern has existed on the surface of this realm for countless millennia throughout history. It co-exists with the Temple of the Earth God as one of the two most ancient spiritual forces.”

Xue Ying nodded.

Gods and spirits did indeed exist in this world.

As for ‘Temple of the Earth God,’ it was born not long after the birth of this world and shared a history similar to the Tavern’s. It’s also the only temple this Empire has acknowledged! The others were just devils or demons. ‘Bloodshed Tavern,’ has been providing service to bounty hunters just as long as the Temple

of the Earth God has existed.”

Lord Si An added, “Xiang Pan Yun is a terrifying madman, but it is rare to encounter him. That is unless there is someone from the Bloodshed Tavern that wants your life! As for the Si Clan, that’s another story.....The Si Clan is literally spread throughout the whole of Azure River County, so it is easy running into a member. If you happen to meet one, you must be modest. After all, they can just make up an excuse to have you locked away!”

“Unless you possess the strength of a Legend rank, and manage to obtain a Bronze Order!” Lord Si An mused, “Then you have true power at your fingertips, and the Si Clan would not have the rights to just deal with you anyway they want. If you became a Transcendent, the Si Clan would have to show you respect... Of course, I mean a true Transcendent, not a pseudo-Transcendent.”

“The authority of the Bronze Order?” Xue Ying became interested.

“Yes.”

“This is the next thing I wanted to say. Getting a Black Iron Order does not only represent your identity, but also speaks on the behalf of certain special powers or backers.” Lord Si An waved his hand again, after which he instantly appeared to be holding a thick book and a dossier.

Lord Si An handed over the dossier to Xue Ying, “ The reason the Xia Clan has been able to survive in this world is because of the constant generations of numerous strong heirs of the clan’s bloodline. Long ago, our Xia Clan’s finest Grand Master Alchemist went on to set rules! Missions were divided into different difficulty levels, allowing the strong ones to accomplish the most important missions.”

“Merit points can be obtained from successful missions.”

“And these merit points can be used to exchange for the things you desire.”

Lord Si An passed the book to Xue Ying, “This is the Book of Exchanges. It lists the available exchanges ranging from gold coins, to magical staffs, to killing a Transcendent, or even becoming the Emperor of the entire Empire! As long as your merit points are obtained from prominent and worthy accomplishments from the Xia Clan, with enough merit points, you can even become an Emperor. ”

Xue Ying froze.

The Grand Master Alchemist from the human Transcendent Xia Clan set such domineering rules! If the merit points are sufficient, it means you could have anything?

“What about saving my parents?” Xue Ying could not hold back the urge to inquire.

“If the merit points are sufficient, annihilating the Mo Yang Clan is just a small portion of what can be done, not to mention rescuing your parents.” Lord Si An shook his head and laughed in amusement. “Of course, everything costs merit points! All of it depends on how much you give to humanity, and how many accomplishments you can show the Xia Clan! These are the Iron-leveled missions, and the merit points that come with them are usually low. To even think of destroying the Mo Yang Clan with this amount is hopeless.”

Xue Ying began going through the list.

There were pages upon pages of missions.

For example, killing a certain infamous bandit would award one with 10 merit points!

Another example would be entering the Mountain Range of Desolation in search of an extraordinary necklace, which would award one with 50 merit points.

.....

Watching Xue Ying, Lord Si An stated, “This list of Iron-leveled missions and the Book of Exchanges, are the most important... You can take a closer look at them, and once you have over 1000 merit points, you will have the right to ignore certain laws, excluding the ones that you can never go against. Even for Transcendents, who have the right to not comply under a range of laws.....they cannot violate these laws.”

“1000 merit points?” Xue Ying was rendered speechless.

Missions like killing Gai Bin, generally only gave at most 10 merit points.

A long and dangerous mission into the Mountain Range of Desolation in search

of lost treasure, where the mission wouldn't necessarily succeed, might only award 50 merit points.

To scrape together 1000 merit points, it seemed almost impossible.

"The Iron-leveled missions' rewards, generally range from 10 to 100 merit points." Lord Si An chuckled, "Bronze-leveled missions, have a minimum of 1000 merit points."

"I want to ask, what can I do to rescue my parents?" Xue Ying asked.

"There are many ways as listed in the Book of Exchanges." Lord Si An replied. "However, you have to find one that consumes the least amount of merit points. This way, I will be able to find your parent's current situation through the Dragon Mountain Mansion's intelligence network. Regarding the location of your parents, I will lend my aid..... However, you must find a way to rescue them yourself."

Xue Ying was unable to conceal his feeling of appreciation. "Well, I'll be leaving you with this mission then, to initiate the investigation, and find out my parent's current situation."

"Leave it to me. Because the Mo Yang Clan is in the Eastfields province, I will need some time. I estimate it will take about a month. In a month we will be able to find out their detailed situations, and at that time I will help you find the easiest way to free them." Lord Si An promised.

"I'll bother you to do so then." Xue Ying's heart began to beat faster in anticipation.

*'Father, mother, are the both of you in good condition?'*

"Very well then, I should be going." Lord Si An stood up. "Every month, people from my Dragon Mountain Mansion will deliver a news article regarding the Empire and a mission list. You can begin anytime, and start earning merit points from the Xia Clan."



## Book 2: Chapter 3 – Parents' Pasts

Xue Ying, Zong Ling, and Tong San stood before the gates of the castle as they witnessed the departure of the people from the Dragon Mountain Mansion.

With that, they began advancing back into the castle.

“Uncle Zong, Uncle Tong.” The sound of the crunching snow beneath Xue Ying echoed as he softly spoke, “I have already obtained the Iron Order. It is time to tell me what exactly happened to my parents in the past.”

Zong Ling and Tong San met each other’s glances.

“Uncle Tong has been around your mother for a long time, he knows a lot more than I do,” Zong Ling replied, “All I know are the mere words left behind by your mother.”

“Xue Ying.” Tong San began as he watched the sky overhead gradually become tainted with falling snow, “I came from a remote Lionman tribe. One fateful day, a powerful caravan wanted to capture all of us, and those who chose to fight back were all killed! After being caught, our names were registered on the list of “Rebels”, and we were forced to become slaves!”

“Rebels?” Xue Ying gasped.

The number of slaves in the Empire were scarce.

Only those who had committed grave sins, such as the killing of innocent civilians, people of nobility, committing rebellion, or those who sought to betray the entire Empire, would become slaves! In other words, only those who had committed the most heinous of crimes would be enslaved.

“Do not be surprised, the Empire has been around for more than 9000 years, and has long been corrupted. With the influences of those powerful families, dirty deeds would not be problematic if they are not obvious. Needless to say, our Lionman tribe was weak, and with no evidence, who would dare to help us?” Tong Ling sneered.

“I became a slave, and through trafficking, I was sold to the Mo Yang Clan!”

The Mo Yang Clan is one of the most influential and powerful families in the Eastfield Provinces, including the Bellfeather County which is all under the complete control of Mo Yang Clan! It has been that way for more than a thousand years.” Lionman Tong San continued, “We were given simple names, Tong Yi, Tong Er, Tong San, Tong Si, Tong Wu.....And I am that Tong San.”

“When the heirs of the Mo Yang Clan came to pick their slaves, I met your mother.” Lionman Tong San smiled. “Back then, your mother was still young, 13 years old, even younger than you are now.”

Xue Ying listened attentively.

“She was carefree.....”

“She would play games happily everyday, as an innocent little girl, and did not look down on a slave like me. Even when I was violently abused by the other Mo Yang heirs, she would cry in anxiety, and even retaliate back in anger.”

Lionman Tong San looked up at the beautiful snowing sky yet again. “All these memories are just some trivial little things. I thought I would live in the Mo Yang Clan the rest of my life, but who would have thought, that in the year she turned 24 years old, the Mo Yang Clan would have arranged a marriage forcefully to a middle aged man who was about 152 years old?”

“152 years old?” Xue Ying widened his eyes.

*‘Mother back then was only in her early 20s, and the other guy was over 150 years old?’*

*‘You must be joking.’*

“It is said that the clan is even more powerful than the Mo Yang Clan and is among the top three clans of the Bellfeather County. Thus the Mo Yang Clan shamelessly offered the hand in marriage of such a young lady.” Tong San continued, “She had never met such a grievance, and facing such a scary situation with no experience, how could she possibly tolerate it? As such, she took advantage of a chance opportunity and escaped.”

“Escaping from Bellfeather County and even the Eastfields Province! After a

long treacherous journey, she came to the Tranquil Sun Province.”

“I followed my master, and so began an adventurous life for both her and myself. Afterwards, I soon became acquainted with Zong Ling and got to know your father Dong Bo Lie.”

“Haha.....”

“Those years of adventuring were so amazing, battling between life and death, relying on each other, and forming such strong loyalty and friendship. Even when your mother was worried that her past would burden your father and the others, she still revealed her history,” Lionman Tong San said.

Zong Ling nodded, “We only know of the Mo Yang Clan’s current information thanks to your mother! We, who do not see death as a threat, would obviously not fear the Mo Yang Clan! *Haha*, as such, we do not care!”

“And then your father and master got together.” Lionman Tong San laughed, “And she only decided to stop adventuring when she became pregnant with you. As such they looked for a place to settle in, that is when they returned to your father’s hometown, the Azure River County!”

“What happened from then on, you should already know as we stayed peacefully in Azure River County for eight years. However, the Mo Yang Clan still managed to find us, and took away your parents.”

Xue Ying nodded lightly.

*‘So that’s what happened.....’*

It was already horrible to have arranged marriage, but to a 152 years old man? Even Legend Rankers could only live at most to 200 years old, and many died around the age of 170 or 180!

“The Mo Yang Clan is an old clan that spans over millennia, and the traditional rules of the clan are still strict.” Lionman Tong San continued, “Your mother will naturally be severely punished for trying to escape her marriage.”

“I do not understand.” Zong Ling snickered, “These powerful families, letting heirs from their own clans be sacrificed, aren’t they ashamed? Or do the elders of these clans no longer care about their younger generations?”

“Zong Ling, the Mo Yang Clan has been around for thousands of years, not to mention they have tens of thousands of members from their clans! They would not care to sacrifice a few!” Lionman Tong San responded.

*“Hmph.”*

“If they are so powerful, there is no need for a young descendant to be married to a 100 years old guy! If the clan is ruined, so be it, but using such a shameless act of forceful marriage to consolidate clan’s status, it is plain disgusting!”

*‘Stand up for mother, she doesn’t deserve this!’* Xue Ying indeed had such angry thoughts.

Being powerful, will earn the coaxing from others. Once weak, one should just let it be ruined! There was no such thing as an eternity for a clan.

“The Mo Yang Clan have caught your parents, what can we do to save them now?” Tong San shook his head in dismay.

“You have contacted the Dragon Mountain Mansion, are there any plans?” Zong Ling asked, earning Tong San’s attention.

“We still lack accurate information, right now we can only wait for yet another month.” Xue Ying replied.

According to each clan’s strength.

The entire Empire had a total of 19 provinces, consisting of six land provinces with the rest being ocean provinces.

For example, the Tranquil Sun Province’s strongest “Eternal Wind Knight,” Chi Qiu Bai’s clan! Those that had the managerial powers to affect an entire province were considered first-class clans.

Just like the Azure River County’s Si Clan! The Eastfield Province’s Bellfeather County’s Mo Yang Clan, also had complete control of a county. The Si Clan’s strongest member, Si Liang Hong, was a Legend rank with her transformation into a Blood Demon, while Mo Yang Clan’s strongest was that of a pseudo-Transcendent! Such control over a county in the whole of the Empire could only be regarded as a Second-class clan.

“With the power of my Ancient bloodline and my spear, I have strength comparable to that of a Silver Moon Knight.” Xue Ying reminded himself. “In the future, I will be fully capable of surpassing Si Liang Hong and that pseudo-Transcendent!”

Like the Firewood Knight with his awakened Ancient bloodline, who was capable of killing a Transcendent with just a swing of his axe.

This was his intended goal.

If one had such amazing strength, even without asking, Mo Yang Clan would undoubtedly return his parents back obediently.

*‘I wonder how my parents are right now?’* Xue Ying was anxious. He was worried if anything had happened to them. He did not dare to think, but he knew if anything had happened.....he would definitely make Mo Yang Clan clan regret it!

“One more month, soon there will be news from the Dragon Mountain Mansion.” Xue Ying said, trying to suppress his anxiety.

.....

Time goes on day by day.

Half a month later, the Great Mage Bai Yuan Zhi came to the Snowrock Castle.

Xue Ying personally waited for him by the gates and asked, “Great Mage, what could have brought you here personally, surely you could have let your servants come?”

“Haha, it would seem that Silver Moon Wolf King was indeed killed by you. I was suspicious before, but now the entire Water Rites Town has heard the news. The Bent Blade Union envied your Silver Moon Wolf King fur and was killed by your spear. Now everyone is hailing you as our finest warrior!” The white robed old man, Bai Yuan Zhi, chuckled, as his group of disciples behind him eyed Xue Ying anxiously.

## Book 2: Chapter 4 – Neighboring Houses

“Haha, you have flattered me enough Great Mage. Please do come in, let us chat,” Xue Ying smiled pleasantly.

“Okay.”

Bai Yuan Zhi did not dare to treat Xue Ying as a child, at such a young age he was already able to eliminate the Silver Moon Wolf King along with its wolf pack. In addition, he was now being addressed as Water Rites Town’s utmost master! Not only that, in a few more years.....it was even possible for him to achieve Legend Rank; he would become the talk of the entire River Azure County, a county which would tremble under his abilities.

Rumours had it that ‘Dong Bo Xue Ying’ practiced the spear like a spear demon.....

In the numerous legends of Transcendents, there were some who were crazily obsessed with painting or smithing weapons, or staring dazedly at the sky.....and out of the blue, awakened to become a Transcendent!

“He has been crazed ever since he was young and yet he is so strong now, in the future it is entirely possible to step into realm of Transcendence,” Bai Yuan Zhi secretly whispered. Of course,, it was just a random thought. Those insights varied throughout the madness of generations, and in the end those who became Transcendents were too few.

They walked alongside each other.

Once they were inside the living room, they sat down separately. Zong Ling and Tong San were present at their sides.

“I heard the news, and even now I am still shocked that you managed to to kill Ge Bin with just a few moves! You even made the entire Bent Blade Union fall apart. I have lived for so long, yet have never seen a young powerful warrior like my Lord. I have only heard of the powerful heirs to the great families.....but to

see this with my own eyes, this is a first.” Bai Yuan Zhi smiled.

“Great Mage, you did not come forth today to just simply compliment me, right?” Xue Ying inquired.

Those great families spent copious amounts of resources in cultivating their powerful heirs; however, he did not really care. He was not so proud himself because his goal has always been to become a Transcendent! Compared to those legendary tales, he considered himself ordinary.

“Hahaha, yes. I indeed came today with a favour to request,” Bai Yuan Zhi said.

“Please do say it. I will do my best to help,” Xue Ying replied.

“Well, while I was staying in my mansion in Water Rites Town, I was often bothered by the nobles, and I can no longer stand it!” Bai Yuan Zhi sighed in despair. “Besides, there are some other mages that took an interest in my studies, resulting in frequent break ins to steal my results. Because I was able to obtain fruitful results from the Silver Moon Wolf King’s heart you had given me I was afraid of such problems. Hence, I decided to move away, leaving Water Rites Town.”

“Moving from Water Rites Town?” Xue Ying froze. “Then, have you decided on a place to stay?”

His younger brother was about to embark on an apprenticeship with this man.

“Haha, have I not came to seek my Lord? I wish to choose a secluded place on your Snowrock Mountain and build a small house to live in.”

Bai Yuan Zhi laughed, “My lord.....your location is tranquil and also located in a mountainous terrain filled with guards and traps, which would keep thieves out. As for the nobles? There will not be many who would trouble themselves to seek after me by travelling hundreds of miles.”

“To disturb my Lord, I am utmost ashamed,” Bai Yuan Zhi continued.

Xue Ying met Zong Ling’s eyes.

Both of them had the same thoughts.

“Haha, it would be my honour, to have a Great Mage within my Snow Eagle Territory. It could only count as a blessing.” Xue Ying laughed, “There are many

mountains in this region and many empty places. Master, be sure to pick an ideal place for your residence.”

Bai Yuan Zhi’s face lit up with gratitude, he knew the chance of offering a place for him to stay was high, but the agreement from Xue Ying still made him pretty happy. “Then, I will begin choosing.”

“This is a trivial matter. The Great Mage can begin building anytime. If you ever need help, just ask,” Xue Ying replied.

“Building a house is easy, and within my disciples are those who know of Earth magic.” Bai Yuan Zhi smiled.

Building castles, building magnificent cities.

It was hard depending on regular mortals to drill and move boulders, especially compared to those who specialised in earth magic.....if one was powerful enough, they could split the earth beneath them or create numerous boulders, thus easily expediting construction. Just like Xue Ying’s “Snowrock Castle” which was built by other masters as well because although his mother was a Heaven rank Mage, she did not specialize in earth magic.

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Xue Ying and Zong Ling stood before the railings as they cast their eyes into the distance.

Looking beyond the walls of the castle, approximately a mountain a few miles away, a stone building was being constructed with great speed under a magic spell. The soil around the area formed into a smooth boulder, and flying debris could be seen everywhere. It was the beginning of the construction.....On the walls, sheets of fire and water lay reflecting off each other, and soon, the walls became smooth.

Great Mage Bai Yuan Zhi even began engraving some spell arrays on the walls.

“Xue Ying, won’t Bai Yuan Zhi residing here cause trouble?” Zong Ling was weary.

“Rest assured, Bai Yuan Zhi has spent many years staying in Water Rites Town, and there were no troubles there. As such, there would not be much trouble if



he were to reside here either.” Xue Ying laughed, “Even if there were to be troubles, it would be quite mild. Even if a strong opponent were to come to stir trouble, it will be useless, not to mention those that would be under them.”

Zong Ling nodded.

Xue Ying was feeling great. Because of the residency of the Great Mage, Qing Shi would not be leaving him to train as an apprentice.

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There were many hills on the Snowrock Mountains.

The peak was Snowrock Castle, and a few miles away, on another mountain, would be the Great Mage’s building! Between them, a full five miles away from the building and three miles from the castle, on the hills, a new bamboo building was being built!

The bamboo building was built by Xue Ying, and for a Great Master who has reached the realm of perfect power control, it was beautifully constructed.

“From today onwards, I will spend most of my time living in the back mountain where the bamboo house is,” Xue Ying told Zong Ling, Tong San, and Qing Shi. “As for the things happening in the territory, I will be troubling you Uncle Zong. Make sure to find me if there are any grave matters.”

“Okay,” Zong Ling nodded.

“Brother, won’t you feel bored living in the bamboo house alone?” Qing Shi asked out of curiosity.

“Haha.....not at all.” Xue Ying smiled. This had been on his mind ever since he reached mastery in spearmanship.

Once his spearmanship reached a certain level, he had a different view on the world around him.

The growth of the grass, the heavy boulders, the breezing of wind, the fluttering of leaves.....everything made him feel amazed. He had missed so much all these years. Look at how beautiful the world was! For him, living in the secluded bamboo house was a form of enjoyment.

Practicing with his spear.....

Another perspective.

Similarly, some soldiers possessed very general foundations. Even with training alongside the boundary between life and death, their skills were flawed, but with constant practice, they perfected them. Becoming one with their weapon and becoming its master, they embarked on and mastered their own path through the heavens.

Xue Ying was different.

He did not like to force himself to live on the edge of life and death. He preferred to live normally and gradually polish his skills, understand his weaknesses, and then perfect them. Such an incomparably powerful foundation was more trustworthy and dependable but required an extremely insane practice regime to achieve. This produced a solid foundation of spearmanship, naturally allowing him to become one with his weapon. As a result of his close brush with death when battling the Shadow leopard, he reached spear mastery.

In fact, even without being forced to fight between life and death, in another year or two, he would have naturally been able to breakthrough.

Xue Ying preferred wisdom like this rather than numerous adventures between life and death.

“Brother, can I come over to visit you often?” Qing Shi inquired.

“Haha, anytime. I would even visit you.” Xue Ying laughed.

Zong Ling, dressed in black, stood there watching Xue Ying before sighing deeply.

In regards to his master’s worldly nature?

It was easy to say that trying to reach the same level of comprehension or even its fringes was difficult.

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Since then, Xue Ying always resided behind Snowrock Mountain in the secluded bamboo house. He began cutting wood, cooking, drinking spring mountain water, meditating, and practicing his spear techniques in the bamboo

forest.

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## Book 2: Chapter 5 – Kong You Yue

News about Great Mage Bai Yuan Zhi residing in Snowrock Mountain began spreading across Water Rites Town very quickly.

Snowrock Mountain, a mountain road on the hill.

“Stop!” There was a checkpoint situated on the mountain path; not just anyone could freely enter Snowrock Castle. A group of soldiers were watching some young men and women who had reached the checkpoint. All these commonly mannered youngsters were dressed in simple garments, making them look like ordinary civilians.

“What’s your business here?” shouted one of the soldiers.

“Big brother,” said one of the young woman with a pretty face. “We heard the Great Mage was living on Snowrock Mountain. We wish to see the Great Mage, and hope to pay our respects at the Great Mage’s residence.”

“That’s right big brother, please be flexible and allow us to see the Great Mage.” The other youngsters plead.

They were all so young; all of them were highly ambitious!

Mage, how high was their status? Of course they all wanted to become Mages as well.

“Humph!” the Captain of the guard, a thin middle-aged man sneered, “Youngsters, I ask you, do you have the talent of a Mage?”

“We don’t know.”

“When we meet the Great Mage, we will know if we have the talent or not,” all of the young men and women replied.

“Ridiculous!” The thin middle-aged man laughed, “Do you know how precious the Great Mage’s time is? Do you think it’s so easy for you to see him? Moreover, you do not even know if you have a Mage’s talent or not. Do you

think the Great Mage will have time to see you one by one?”

“Maybe one of us have will have a very high talent for magic and may be favored by the Great Mage,” said one of the girls.

“That’s enough!” The middle-aged Captain was shaking his head. “Just leave. These days, I have seen too many young dreamers! Youngsters, you have to be realistic! I, your uncle, specifically joined the army to learn dou qi. I could only learn it after experiencing several rounds of life or death! Who do you think you are, to be received by the Great Mage as a disciple? “

“To tell you the truth, the Great Mage has already decreed that he will not see any visitors! , Even if the visitors were nobles, he would not see them, let alone you.” The middle-aged Captain warned.

“Ah!”

The youngsters looked at each other; they all felt hopeless.

These soldiers devoted themselves to their duties. No matter how they pleaded, the soldiers would still not let them pass.

Not long after.

A carriage came rushing towards the checkpoint, a large group of horsemen followed behind the carriage. The carriage was luxurious, embedded with a magic array. Even at such a fast pace, the carriage was still very stable.

“Stop!” Lord Xue Ying’s soldiers called out.

“We are the entourage of Lord Yun Cui of the Cao Clan. Our Lord wants to visit your Lord’s castle.” said the carriage coachman.

“Lord Yun Cui of the Cao Clan?”

The soldiers exchanged glances.

Not many big clans resided within Water Rites Town. Lord Yun Cui of the Cao Clan, was barely able to be counted as one of the top ten big clans inside Water Rites Town. At that time, when Lord Xue Ying’s strength was weak, the Cao Clan was also one level weaker! Right now, with Dong Bo Xue Ying being considered as the number one expert in Water Rites Town, the gap between Cao Clan and Dong Bo Clan was even greater.

“Only ten or fewer soldiers can pass and go up the hill.” The skinny middle-aged Captain said, “This is an order issued by the Lord, please understand.”

“This .....

“Fine. Old Pan, you and four others, follow me to go up the mountain. As for the others, stay here.” Said the voice from inside the carriage.

“Understood.”

Five strong knights followed behind the carriage in an imposing manner. They went up the hill, passing the checkpoint.

“We also want to visit the Lord. Let us up mountain.” one of the girls from the youngster group before shouted. They seemed unwilling to give up.

“Hahaha! You want to visit the Lord? The Great Mage won’t see you; does it mean our Lord would be willing to see you? “ The thin middle-aged man shook his head and laughed, “Forget it. Just give up.”

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This time, before the New Year, Snow Hill City was unprecedentedly lively.

Some Citizens wanted to try their luck, while many nobles from Water Rites Town also came to pay a visit. However, because the Great Mage wouldn’t accept any guests, they instead went to Dong Bo Xue Ying! They wanted to ask Xue Ying to help them, to ask the Great Mage to receive them as disciples. They felt that since the Great Mage settled here, he would definitely give face to Lord Dong Bo Xue Ying.

But——

Dong Bo Xue Ying was also not receiving any guests! Zong Ling helped to ward off all of the guests as well.

In the morning.

A male servant rushed down to the bamboo house at the back of the mountain, but the bamboo house was empty inside. He did not see Xue Ying.

“Master, Master,” cried the male servant.

The voice echoed.....

On the mountain hillside, a spring rushed down from above, smashing into the pool below as a stream meandered away into the distance. On a large stone beside the pool, while listening to the sounds of the mountain spring water beside him, Xue Ying practiced a set of fist techniques. This was precisely the dou qi technique《Three Stage Flame Technique》. When practicing the fist technique, his entire bodies strength surged. Xue Ying beautifully coordinated his fists. His entire physical power was perfectly mastered and naturally attracted the fire-attributed energy from Heaven and Earth.

Constantly, he inhaled the fire-attributed energy from Heaven and Earth and internally converted it to fire dou qi.

“Inhale, Exhale.....”

One fist after another... between breaths, Xue Ying felt as though countless flames drilled into his body. His body continually drew fire-attributed energy from the surroundings. His primordial bloodline awakened not long ago, but whether it was his dou qi or physical body, everything continued developing at high speed. Xue Ying continued to practice his fist technique. He wanted to perfectly control every aspect of this rapidly growing power.

“Master.” A distant voice could be heard.

“Huh?” Xue Ying suddenly stopped and looked upwards, towards the source of the sound .

“I will not meet any nobles, why are they still looking for me?” Xue Ying pondered while picking up his Snow Spear.

*Whiz!*

He moved extremely fast, becoming a mirage. If normal people saw this, they would only see Xue Ying as a blurry shadow flashing by. This level of power was frightening!

“*Rustle!*” From behind the Bamboo House a mirage flashed a moment, and then Xue Ying appeared.

“What’s wrong?” Xue Ying asked.

The male servant was very surprised and frightened with the sudden

appearance of his Lord. After hearing the Lord's inquiry, he immediately answered. "Lord Zong Ling ordered me to inform you that the previous Lord's old friend, Lord Kong Hai, has come. Lord Zong Ling asked you to please head back."

"Uncle Kong?" Xue Ying lightly nodded.

Excluding Uncle Zong and Uncle Tong, Xue Ying's father had very little friends! His own grandfather, because of famine, left his hometown and came to Water Rites Town. Because his grandfather was an outsider, the villagers isolated and bullied him. His grandfather lost his life when going inside the mountain to hunt. Without his parent's care, Xue Ying's father had no choice except to join the army. While in the army, Xue Ying's father had the chance to cultivate dou qi and went on many adventures involving life or death situations.

His father's friends also came from the few people he knew from his time in the army. However, because his father was out adventuring for too long, he already lost contact with most of his friends. Only Kong Hai frequently came to visit. Xue Ying remembered that when he was a child, he had seen Kong Hai several times. After his parents had been arrested, Kong Hai also came to visit once a year, and in later years he would send someone to send New Year's gifts. To maintain this relation, Xue Ying would also send some return gifts to Kong Hai.

Since his parents were not present, it had been awhile since Kong Hai personally came.

"Ha Ha, Xue Ying! It's been several years since I've last seen you! Now you have already become the number one expert in Water Rites Town. Amazing!" A fat middle-aged man said, getting up and laughing the moment he saw Xue Ying enter the living room.

"Uncle Kong Hai." Xue Ying smiled and nodded.

Kong Hai secretly regretted his choice.

After he retired from the Army, he became a businessman. He became friends with many people and established social relations with them. Dong Bo Lie was only one of his many friends. After Dong Bo Lie and his wife were arrested, he only came once to Snowrock Castle to comfort the young Dong Bo brothers.



After that, he never came back. However, because of his habit as a businessman, to maintain the relation, he would always send men to deliver a New Year's gift.

In fact, every year he would send New Year's gifts to all of his friends, but he would only personally visit and deliver the gifts for the more important friends. He never concerned himself with this child who was left by his old friend. Who could have imagined, this 'Dong Bo Xue Ying' unexpectedly, with only his strength alone, was able to wipe out the fearsome Bent Blade Union? Simply unimaginable!

"Come, You Yue, greet your Elder Brother Xue Ying." The plumpy Kong Hai tugged at a young girl wearing a green dress beside him.

"Elder Brother Xue Ying," The young girl wearing green dress said shyly.

"You Yue?" Xue Ying smiled, "you're already grown up. I met you before when I was only a child, but I'm afraid you wouldn't remember me. At that time you were only four or five years old."

He had seen Kong You Yue before when he was a child. Kong You Yue was Kong Hai's daughter; she was three years younger than him.

"I came here today to trouble you about something, Xue Ying." Kong Hai smiled while saying. "You Yue has magic talent. I request of you to ask the Great Mage to make You Yue his disciple! I also brought five thousand gold Coins to give to the Great Mage! The Great Mage already has many disciples. It's just one common disciple... The Great Mage probably won't care about such a matter. I want Xue Ying to personally ask the Great Mage. He definitely would give more attention to You Yue if you asked."

"Oh, this matter, Uncle Kong Hai doesn't have to worry about." Xue Ying nodded and promised.

For the Great Mage, accepting a disciple was just a matter of money.

To become his personal disciple, someone had to pay 50,000 gold coins!

To become a common disciple, the requirement was 5,000 gold coins! Of course it was acceptable.

5,000 Gold Coins..... even for nobles from Water Rites Town, it was still

regarded as an astronomical amount of money. So far, for Xue Ying giving him the Silver Moon Wolf King's heart, the Great Mage was already satisfied.

A fee of 5,000 Gold Coins to become a common disciple still counted as a high price. Most of the nobles also wanted to ask Xue Ying to help them, but they also wanted to reduce the fee to save some money.

But Kong Hai..... had already prepared 5,000 Gold Coins! This meant Xue Ying just had to say a word, it was indeed trivial.

"Xue Ying,, when You Yue later becomes the Great Mage's disciple and resides within Snowrock Mountain, please help take care of her as well. ," Kong Hai continued speaking.

"No problem, there are many rooms within the castle. You Yue can reside within one of the rooms," replied Xue Ying. He usually stayed at the back of the mountain inside the bamboo house. This kind of matter could be arranged immediately.

"Ha ha ha... speaking of this, that year, your father and I also said that if the two of you get along well, we will let you two marry." Kong Hai laughed happily.

"Father." You Yue's face flushed.

"However, it all depends on your feelings. Your parents also said, that year, not to force it. 'We should let the children decide by themselves'." Kong Hai exclaimed happily, "If the Water Rites Town's number one expert became my son-in-law, ha ha, I would be so happy I wouldn't be able to close my mouth."

"Father, enough." You Yue couldn't bear it any longer. She was still young and couldn't bear her father's shamelessness. Kong Hai stopped to look at his daughter and smiled.

When he and the Dong Bo Lie couple chatted about their children's marriage, the Dong Bo couple just said, 'it depends on the children's feelings.' Today he brought it up again!

It was because... he was very optimistic about Xue Ying. He wished for his daughter and Xue Ying's marriage! If the marriage really happened, his Kong Clan's status would also rise.

Indeed, he didn't care about Great Mage Bai Yuan Zhi! Asking for a position as a disciple? He was a businessman. His daughter could pick any ordinary Mage as her teacher, and it would be sufficient. Why spend 5,000 Gold Coins for the Great Mage?

This 5,000 Gold Coins, wasn't because of the Great Mage!

It was because of Xue Ying!

It was because the Great Mage was residing within Snowrock Mountain!

He ordered his daughter to reside within Snowrock Mountain. His daughter living together with Xue Ying, from morning till evening! Over time, naturally his daughter and Xue Ying will develop some feelings and become a couple.

A businessman always looked for long term profits. A businessman also had to know when to spend. Since his retirement as a soldier, Kong Hai already built his reputation as a businessman, a very skilled one.

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That very same day, Xue Ying personally took them to visit Great Mage Bai Yuan Zhi!

Seeing 5,000 Gold Coins, Bai Yuan Zhi couldn't help but smile happily. He also promised to take good care when teaching Kong You Yue.

That night, Kong Hai went back home. He once again entrusted Xue Ying to take care of Kong You Yue.

Actually...

Xue Ying was no longer a child. He was also smart and matured. Even in his childhood, he already saw through Kong Hai's intentions. This time, he also understood Kong Hai's visit had another meaning! But towards this little sister, Kong You Yue who he often saw when small, Xue Ying didn't have any other feelings. Because right now You Yue was still a child, and even after New Year, she was still a thirteen year old girl. Her body also had not yet developed; she was just a little girl.

*"Swish."*

*"Clang."*

A spear flew through the air.

Xue Ying began living alone in seclusion in the mountain bamboo house and practicing his spear technique, his spear’s shadow whistled. The Flying Snow Spear naturally attracted snowflakes. In the center of the snowflakes was a teenager dressed in black clothing. The figure looked surreal, his silhouette and the spear’s shadow having merged to become one.

“Xue Ying, Xue Ying,” Lion-man Tong San came running with big steps. With each step he trampled the frozen snow, making it split apart.

“Uncle Tong?” Xue Ying stopped his spear.

“Lord Si An from Dragon Mountain Manor has come,” said Tong San.

Xue Ying’s eyes brightened. Finally, was there news about his parents?

“Let’s go.” Xue Ying didn’t bother to change his clothes. He and Tong San immediately began rushing towards the castle.

## Book 2: Chapter 6 – If I don't kill you, then I'm not a man!

Xue Ying entered from the back door of the castle. He walked in the castle's shadow to get inside his room and, put down the Flying Snow God Spear inside and then hurriedly headed downstairs towards the living room.

Inside the living room.

Lord Si An was already being received by Zong Ling.

"This past month, there was another Mage's tower built on Snowrock Mountain!" Lord Si An sipped his tea, "Our Water Rites Town's most powerful knight and mage are both gathered here in Snowrock Mountain."

"It's only within Water Rites Town, it can't be compared with other powerful experts out there." Zong Ling smiled.

*"Whistle"*

The wind whistled as a youth clothed in black came in.

Lord Si An turned around and when he saw the youth, his eyes brightened. He immediately got up, smiled and said, "Lord".

"Lord Si An." Xue Ying continued walking inside, "Please sit. There is no need for any formality."

When he sat down, Xue Ying immediately asked, "Lord Si An, regarding my parents situation..."

"You can trust our Dragon Mountain Manor intelligence's capability. We have the number one reputation." Lord Si An continued, saying, "But I have to remind you to stay calm."

"Calm?" Xue Ying heart's tightened. Zong Ling's face next to him also shifted.

"Please tell us," Xue Ying said with a tranquil expression.

Lord Si An understood that this young Lord's mind could undoubtedly not be calm. He secretly sighed before directly stating, "Your mother's condition is not bad. She is a direct descendant of the Mo Yang Clan. Her brother, Mo Yang Chen, is their clan's youngest Silver Moon Mage. With this status, your mother is only confined inside the Mo Yang Clan's prohibited area, 'Thunder Tide Shores'. Although a bit lonely, she can still live comfortably there. She has also devoted herself to studying magic, in fact I also heard your mother broke through to the Meteor Mage rank."

"Ah Yu has long been a talented person. She really is the first among us to breakthrough and reach Meteor rank," Zong Ling smiled and nodded.

"How about my father?" Xue Ying worriedly ask.

*'Mother is all right, but what about Father?'*

"Your father....." Lord Si An hesitated for a moment, "That year, your mother refused to accept the marriage arranged by her family and fled from her clan. So the Mo Yang Clan then chose another relatively good direct descendant daughter to be married off. This girl's father is called 'Mo Yang Chen Bai.' That year, Mo Yang Chen Bai couldn't prevent his daughter's marriage. He still regrets it even today. Since his daughter's marriage, he has spent 20 years training, and has finally reached the Silver Moon Knight rank. With help from his clan's resources to refine a superior refiner armor, he is even able to fight on par with those of the Legend rank. Our Dragon Mountain Manor also sent him the Bronze Order!"

"Mo Yang Cheng Bai still resents that year's events. He also begrudges your mother because your mother escaped from the arranged marriage, forcing him to marry his daughter to an old man." Lord Si An continued swiftly.

"How did it become my mother's fault? After my mother fled, his daughter's marriage..... wasn't that decided by the Mo Yang clan's leader?" Xue Ying angrily said.

"He didn't dare to oppose the clan's leader. He could only direct his anger towards your mother," replied Lord Si An. "Your mother has her brother's protection, and moreover she is confined inside the prohibited area, the Thunder Tide Shores. He can't do anything to your mother! But your father, on the other

hand, is sentenced to do hard labour. Mo Yang Cheng Bai then directed and vented his anger on your father.”

Xue Ying’s face became ashen. He gripped his chair’s armrest, his fingers beginning to sink down into the wood.

“Your father was sentenced to a century of forced labor. He was taken to the Mo Yang Clan’s forge at ‘Fragrant East Lake’ to serve there. Mo Yang Cheng Bai often orders people to torture your father. He also specially asked the forge’s doctor to barely heal your father! Leaving him constantly on the verge of death,” explained Lord Si An. “Without the doctor’s treatments, I’m afraid your father couldn’t have endured the conditions and would’ve died within 3 years time.”

*“Peng!”*

Xue Ying’s hand finally made the armrest shatter, his eyes filled with killing intent, “Damn it, Damn it!”

He remembered his father’s majestic presence.....

His father’s harsh and strict training and the doting love he had towards Xue Ying.....

“Mo Yang Cheng Bai! Mo Yang Clan!” Xue Ying’s blood boiled, a bloodthirsty aura exuding from his body.

It also angered Zong Ling, his face becoming ugly.

Although Lord Si An said it in a simple manner, they all understood. Doing forced labor itself was already very torturous, but in addition, being tortured by people specifically sent to do so? Even Dong Bo Lie’s Heaven Rank Knight’s body can not endure it, and Mo Yang Cheng Bai still ordered the doctor to treat Dong Bo Lie just so he could receive more harassment?

Xue Ying’s chest blazed with fury, his anger surging.

“Mo Yang Cheng Bai, if I don’t kill you, then I’m not a man!” Xue Ying swore. His heart filled with killing intent. But with a stranger next to him, he couldn’t shout it out loud.

It was no use to yell it.

It only needed to be done!

“How about the Mo Yang clan? And Mo Yang Chen? When he tortured my father, did no one care?” asked Xue Ying.

“The Mo Yang clan does not care if your father lives or dies. As for Mo Yang Chen, although he already entrusted someone to take care of your father, it’s no use. Firstly, Mo Yang Chen always immerses himself to study magic. Secondly, Mo Yang Cheng Bai has already achieved the Bronze Order. His status within the Mo Yang clan is not inferior to Mo Yang Chen. Moreover Mo Yang Chen Bai specifically assigns people to torture your father. After all, Mo Yang Chen can not constantly go to protect your father right?

Lord Si An added, “Besides, although Mo Yang Chen may have some affection towards his sister, he doesn’t have any strong sentiment towards your father.”

After hearing this, Xue Ying gritted his teeth.

He understood.

He understood all of this.

But he really hated it. He simply couldn’t take it.

“How can I save my parents?” asked Xue Ying.

“According to our information, the Mo Yang Clan strictly implemented their clan’s rules. No one can violate it! And your mother is being held in a prohibited area, while your father is inside Mo Yang clan’s Fragrant East Lake Forge. Outsiders can’t go inside the forge, so there is no way to save your father.” implied Lord Si An, “There is no ordinary method to do so, it’s futile.”

“What about an unordinary method?” Xue Ying asked.

“A relatively simple method is to give your father the noble title of “Honorary Marquis” ,” Lord Si An suggested. “The Marquis title has a high status and privileges. No Transcendent can arrest them. And to directly kill or imprison a marquis? Even the Mo Yang clan’s Pseudo-Transcendent can’t bear the consequences!”

Marquis.

Indeed, it was a special title.

It was special because the titles below Marquis, ‘Earl’ and ‘Baron’ could be



bought with money, but no one could buy the Marquis title! Even then, the Marquis title was very rare. Under normal circumstances, only someone born within a Transcendent clan that could cultivate to become a Transcendent could be one! And even then only one person within the Transcendent clan, could be appointed as a Marquis. This title was only hereditary for a millennium! After a millennium, the title would be lowered to the Earl title.

Therefore.....

Usually, a Marquis was the nominal leader of Transcendent clans. As for the other people with Transcendent level power? They had no title at all.

So a Marquis was prohibited from being imprisoned, killed and so on. Pseudo-Transcendents didn't have that qualification. As for Transcendents, even if they dared, they still had to pay a hefty fine.

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The title 'Honorary Marquis' wasn't a hereditary title! Usually, only when someone performed a great merit for the Empire, would they have a chance to receive an 'Honorary Marquis' title and possess privileges similar to a hereditary marquis. But unlike a hereditary marquis, the Honorary Marquis title couldn't be inherited by their descendants.

"If your father becomes an Honorary Marquis, your mother will become a Marchioness. Then the Mo Yang Clan would have to stop any punishment immediately. They can't even harm a single hair on your parents head," explained Lord Si An.

"How can I obtain the Honorary Marquis title?" asked Xue Ying

## Book 2: Chapter 7 – 110,000 Gold Coins

Lord Si An explained, “To obtain the Honorary Marquis title, you only have to accumulate merit points! If you had read the Book of Exchanges carefully, in it you would have found is a condition to become an Honorary Marquis. In order to exchange merit points for the Honorary Marquis title..... you have to exchange 20,000 merit points!”

“Is it the only way?” Xue Ying, of course, already knew this method.

But 20,000 merit points, that was too far away.

Right now he was able to take the Black Iron level missions, but they only rewarded merit points of 10 to 100 or so! The mission with 100 merit points were the dangerous and time consuming missions.

100 merit points for a single mission. He would have to complete at least 200 missions in order to accumulate 20,000 merit points!

Even if a mission only needed 2 months to be completed..... without rest, within one year he could only accomplish six missions. It would take more than 30 years to accumulate the required amount of points! Moreover, the Black Iron Level mission list sent by Dragon Mountain Manor only had one mission. How could he complete several missions which awarded 100 merit points?

“There is no other way?” Xue Ying continued to ask.

“Unfortunately, no,” replied Lord Si An. “There is no shortcut to obtaining Honorary Marquis title. Only after experiencing many life and death adventures, could a powerful Legend ranker accumulate such merit points! This way, the Honorary Marquis title has even more value. Because behind the title holder’s back stands a powerful Legend ranker who is willing to risk his life for him.”

“Hu...”

Xue Ying closed his eyes.

*'Father..... '*

*'Father..... what should I do?'*

Xue Ying really wished to deal with the Mo Yang clan now. He wanted to slaughter them and save his father. But the Mo Yang clan was an ancient clan with a legacy spanning millennia. Their foundation was strong. Mo Yang Chen Bai with his refiner armor alone could match the power of a Legend ranked expert! Not to mention other powerful forces and the Pseudo-Transcendent! Although, if it was a Pseudo Transcendent, perhaps just a single move could already kill him.

*"To obtain 20,000 merit points, doing missions right now is unreasonable. My primordial bloodline awakened not long ago, and my body became powerful after constantly being nourished with dou qi! My dou qi has also continued developing at high speed. Everyday my strength improves significantly,"* Xue Ying reminded himself. *"Under normal circumstances, my power level is comparable with a Meteor ranked expert. Soon my power will be able to rival Silver Moon ranked experts and even Legend ranked experts!"*

*"When that time comes, I can get a Bronze Order! I can directly take Bronze level missions. The minimum amount of merit points awarded for Bronze level missions is 1000, and some dangerous missions would even give 10,000 merit points. If I complete this kind of mission, I just need to do two missions,"* Xue Ying pondered.

Some preparations needed to be done for him to be able to achieve his goal efficiently. If he wanted to be more efficient when doing the task, he needed to increase his strength first!

He understood that this method was the fastest way to accumulate 20,000 merit points.

*'But.....'*

*'What about father?'*

*'Can father hold out until I accumulate 20,000 merit points?'*

.....

The atmosphere inside the living room was very heavy.

Wood pieces from the broken armrest scattered all around the floor. Xue Ying silently sat on the chair. Lord Si An could only quietly sip his tea.

“I can’t save my father for now,” Xue Ying said with a hoarse voice. “But I want to protect his life, is there any way to do it?”

“Although Mo Yang Chen Bai keeps sending people to torture your father, he is also ordering the alchemy workshop’s Mage to heal your father. He probably wouldn’t let your father die.” explain Lord Si An.

“He wouldn’t?”

Xue Ying gritted his teeth, “My father’s life shouldn’t be at Mo Yang Chen Bai’s disposal! Moreover, my father has already been doing hard labor for several years. You will never know when Mo Yang Chen Bai will lose interest in continuing to torture my father. When that time comes, my father is very likely to lose his life.”

“I want to ensure my father’s life,” said Xue Ying while looking at Lord Si An. “With enough money, even a Transcendent can be hired! I believe in the power of money.”

Money, many people can be charmed with money.

“Lord Si An, how many gold coins are needed to protect my father’s life?!” Xue Ying demanded resolutely. If he could easily take out 10,000,000 gold coins, even a Transcendent would willingly help him rescue his father and shelter him. But that amount of money to hire a Transcendent..... was not something Xue Ying could provide.

“Gold Coins?” Lord Si An thought for a moment, “If Lord Xue Ying, have enough gold coins. Maybe I can work out a way to accomplish it.”

“Please tell,” replied Xue Ying immediately.

“When I helped you search for information about your parents’ whereabouts, your father was located inside East Fragrant Lake Refinery. This refinery is the Mo Yang clan’s most important, core refinery. The person in charge of it is a very powerful Grand Master Refiner! His strength is at the Silver Moon level. He is

very skilled at refining. His position within the Mo Yang clan is also higher than Mo Yang Chen and Mo Yang Chen Bai,” explained Lord Si An.

Xue Ying’s eyes brightened, a powerful and skilled refiner...this was an exalted position in every ancient clan.

“He controls the entire refinery! In the refineries, the Grand Master Refiner position is absolute.” Lord Si An continued, “If he is willing to save your father, protecting your father’s life will prove to be an easy task. Your father would no longer even have to do the hard labor.”

“Please ask him to help,” uttered Xue Ying.

“Although this Grand Master Refiner is very enviable, he’s not loaded. He’s afraid to be looked down on, to be seen as unworthy. Lord Si An continued, “I think it would need 100,000 gold coins! I’m quite certain that if you can provide 110,000 gold coins... I can help you settle this matter! 110,000 gold coins, 10,000 gold coins for Dragon Mountain Manor’s commision to settle this and 100,000 gold coins to buy the Grand Master Refiner.

“If it fails, 100,000 gold coins will be refunded! As for the commision, it can’t be refunded,” explained Lord Si An.

The Dragon Mountain Manor intelligence network was spread all over the world.

Moreover, in addition to monitoring the world, the Dragon Mountain Manor was also considered as the world’s most powerful force. This kind of minor shady arrangement was really not entirely illegal.

“110,000 gold coins? Fine.”

With a flick of his hand, a stack of gold certificates appeared in his palm. “This is a stack of Empire Bank’s gold certificates, equivalent to 110,000 gold coins.

Lord Si An became shocked.

Good Lord!

110,000 gold coins!

Although he easily took the money out, it was because earlier, he didn’t have to pay 50,000 gold coins to Bai Yuan Zhi. To become Bai Yuan Zhi’s personal

disciple, one had to pay 50,000 gold coins for the apprenticeship fee. The reason was because a personal disciple was someone who would receive a lifetime's tutelage. However, Xue Ying gave him a Silver Moon heart instead of 50,000 gold coins! And this was because obtaining such a large amount of gold coins was extremely difficult.

This time, because he could hunt the Silver Moon Wolf King and the Shadow Leopard, he had earned plenty of money.

Nevertheless, even Legend rank Knights were unwilling to earn this kind of quick money. Because if someone had bad luck and encountered a magical beast with the same power level as them, this encounter would be like delivering one's own life! In fact, when he had encountered that Shadow Leopard, Xue Ying had truly almost lost his life.

To get so many gold coins, one usually needed to attempt dangerous adventures or go to the Mountain Range of Desolation.

Without risking their lives, it would be very difficult to earn so many gold coins.

These 110,000 gold coins.... After Xue Ying had sold the Silver Moon King Wolf's fur and other valuable body parts for 70,000 gold coins, he had also exterminated Bent Blade Union and confiscated some gold coins from them! Right now Xue Ying had 120,000 gold coins in his possession, and he had only taken out 110,000 gold coins.

"Rest assured, within one month I will update you. I can guarantee that this matter is already 90% settled. Mages and refiners truly value money because they need to upkeep their experiment material expenses. 100,000 gold coins are enough to ensure a workshop worker's life, they will certainly accept it," Lord Si An assured.

Xue Ying nodded.

If this attempt failed, he was willing to offer even more money!

News about him killing the Silver Moon Wolf King had already spread around. Some merchants even took the initiative in trying to acquire the Silver Moon Wolf King's fur and other body parts. Besides he still had the body of the Shadow Leopard, which was already fully dissected, but not yet sold!

“I’ll have to trouble Lord Si An,” requested Xue Ying. “If this matter is settled, Xue Ying will not forget this debt I owe to Lord Si An.”

.....

“Haha, be at ease!” When he heard Xue Ying announce that, Lord Si An immediately replied happily. If he could successfully settle this matter, Xue Ying would definitely remember this debt. Taking into account Xue Ying’s current position, this debt was not worth anything. But if you considered the future possibilities of when Xue Ying became Legend Rank, it would be different.

.....

Dragon Mountain Manor Internal Division, secret communication channel. Lord Si An immediately contacted the master of Bellfeather County, Eastfield Province’s Dragon Mountain Manor. Lord Si An conveyed the matter to a specific person.

Although Mo Yang clan could easily manipulate and control matters within Bellfeather County, the Dragon Mountain Manor was an independent organization!

No ordinary family could interfere with Dragon Mountain Manor, like Lord Si An from Water Rites Town’s Dragon Mountain Manor. He was actually from the Si family, a direct descendant of that old witch Si Liang Hong! Because he didn’t have to worry about the Si family, he could even afford to have some enmity with them.

Of course, some families like the Tranquil Sun Province’s most powerful clan, the Eternal Wind Clan could influence Dragon Mountain Manors outside of the province! As for the Dragon Mountain Manors within the Tranquil Sun Province, they would naturally yield to the Eternal Wind Clan.

But the Si Family and the Mo Yang Clan didn’t have that kind of power.

\*\*\*\*\*

East Fragrant Lake refiner workshop, Bellfeather County, Eastfields Province.

East Fragrant Lake was a very beautiful lake. Its surface looked like a mirror. Beside the lake, there was a closed refinery shop, standing like a big fortress.

Located in the center of the workshop was the tallest building, the Mage Tower! This Mage Tower belonged to Grand Master Refiner Xu Guang Qing. Albeit he was only a Silver Moon rank Mage, but in the workshop and even within the whole Bellfeather County, he was the number one expert!

Many other families wanted to invite him, but in the end Mo Yang Clan succeeded in roping him in. The reason was because the Mo Yang clan also offered him the position “Outer Elder.” This position also enabled him to participate in the Clan’s Elder Council.

The other reason for Xu Guan Qing being willing to accept Mo Yang clan’s offer was also because his home town was within Bellfeather County. If not for the latter reason, maybe he wouldn’t have joined the Mo Yang clan.

“*Hua hua hua~~*” Next to blazing hot gear, a topless middle aged man was covered with sweat, using all his strength trying to push forward. This man was Dong Bo Lie, and there were other workers laboring away.

“Faster!”

“You’re a Heaven rank knight, exercise more power!” a foreman sometimes looked over at Dong Bo Lie, occasionally coming to whip him.

Compared to the past, Dong Bo Lie had lost some weight.

He was silently doing the work.

Day and night, he would complete hard labor in addition to receiving punishment and torture. Living through this kind of hellish nightmare, he could only grit his teeth and endure. He refused to give up. His wife, his two sons..... He wanted to live, he still had too many worries to give up.

Even living like a dog, he still wanted to live!

“Grand Master.”

“Grand Master.”

A foreman nearby suddenly trembled and greeted respectfully while the workers were startled and frightened.

A black man wearing a red robe slowly came in, and everyone respectfully held their breath. The man in front of them was not only a clan elder, but also this



refiner workshop's overseer, Grand Master Xu Guang Qing!

"Recently I'm doing a new experiment and I need some people to help me," Great Master Xu Guang Qing requested. "The person involved in my experiment will be exempted from this kind of hard labor and will also receive more wage."

Everyone was stunned.

Great Master Refiner experiment?

The foreman's face suddenly became pale. Who was stupid enough to volunteer for the experiment?

"How many prisoners do we have?" Seeing no one volunteer Xu Guang Qing frowned. Some workers were the clan's servants or they had a certain degree of freedom. But the prisoners, they had no freedom and could be forced.

"Reporting to Great Master, here we have more than 2,000 prisoners," one of the nearby foremen replied.

"Give me all of the prisoners' names on a list, along with their power rank. I will choose from there," ordered Xu Guang Qing.

"Understood."

The Chief Foreman immediately responded.

That day, twelve unlucky prisoners were selected to help the Great Master's experiment, including two Heaven Rank Knights, five Earth Rank Knights and five Human Rank Knights! Those prisoners, under the pitying looks of other prisoners, went to see the Great Refiner Mage with fear, despair or numbness in their hearts.

"Are you Dong Bo Lie? You stay here," ordered Xu Guang Qing.

Other prisoners continued to walk. Wearing tattered clothes, Dong Bo Lie stood there, feeling a little nervous.

Xu Guang Qing whispered, "Dong Bo Lie, there is someone who spent several thousands of gold coins to ensure your safety. From today onwards, you stay with me, becoming my assistant. You don't have to do the delicate work, just help my disciples handle some heavy goods."

“Assistant?” Dong Bo Lie was dumbfounded.

“You can be at ease here. No one would dare to ravage my Mage Tower,” assured Xu Guang Qing. “Later, you should just obediently stay inside the Mage Tower, and not go outside. My disciples will inform you of any further detailed arrangements. You can go now.”

“Yes Master.” Dong Bo Lie couldn’t believe it and felt somewhat at a loss.

*‘The hellish nightmare days have ended just like that?’*

Being an assistant for experiments was more relaxed compared to doing hard labour inside the workshop.

“There’s a problem with metal ratio?” Xu Guang Qing frowned, pondered while looking carefully at the experiment file. For him, this was just a trivial matter. He was still happy that he could get 100,000 gold coins. Of course.... he couldn’t have receive the money without doing anything. Because he had gotten the money from Dragon Mountain Manor! After receiving the money, he had to make sure he did good work.

As for Mo Yang Chen Bai?

He didn’t care for a clan knight relying on a refiner armor. He was someone who could refine many valuable artifacts. He had the clan’s support.

“It seems the experiment will continue. Hmm, some materials are insufficient. Humph, those clan’s elders are always cutting my materials supply.” Xu Guang Qing knitted his brows.

## Book 2: Chapter 8 – Six Years Later

After the New Year.

Lord Si An had returned to Snowrock castle.

“The mission was successfully accomplished.” said Lord Si An happily, “East Fragrant Lake Workshop’s Master Refiner already received 100,000 gold coins. Based on our intelligence, your father, Dong Bo Lie, is currently working inside the mage tower. Although some of the work is still strenuous, it’s not something your father’s Heaven Rank Knight’s body can’t endure. After all, what the Master Refiner had done to protect your father’s life didn’t go against the Mo Yang clan’s punishment for your father’s 100 years of hard labor. He didn’t go against it, he just made it a little easier.

“It’s okay. As long it can protect my father’s life.” Xue Ying suddenly said “ Is it really safe inside the mage tower? Could something unexpected happen to my father there?”

“You can rest assured” guaranteed Lord Si An. “A Master Refiner’s mage tower is a restricted area! Even for the Mo Yang clan’s Pseudo-Transcendent..... if he wants to get inside the mage tower, even he would still need permission from the Master Refiner, to give said Master Refiner enough respect. Moreover, inside the mage tower there is some dangerous heavy equipment and the Master Refiner’s lifetime research material. No one dares to go in without permission. What position does Mo Yang Chen Bai have? Not to mentioned his hired men, even he himself wouldn’t dare! Your father is completely safe there!”

“Thank you Lord Si An.” Xue Ying said gratefully, he felt like a weight has been lifted off of his chest.

For him, gold coins were just another worldly possession.

It was more important to protect his father’s life.

“Luckily we have Lord Si An’s help, if not, our Dong Bo family would be in

trouble.” Zong Ling also felt grateful. He and Tong San were both slightly relieved.

“Haha, merely a small deed.” replied Lord Si An, “After all Dong Bo Lie is a citizen of Water Rites Town. If there is something I can do to save him, of course I will do it.”

Xue Ying’s heart suddenly felt warm.

However, Xue Ying was still not satisfied at all with his parents’ situation.

*‘Mother, she is forever living alone in confinement. This kind of long imprisonment, is usually accompanied with boredom too. Moreover she has only her.....just herself, alone inside the prison!’*

*‘Father after all this time, you still have to do hard labour.’*

*‘I’m still too weak.’*

*‘I’m still not even at Legend Rank!’*

*“Right now I still have no hope to get the Honorary Marquis title. After my primordial bloodline awakened, my body has been improving significantly. The more I practice, the faster my body improves.”* Xue Ying thought.

Just like the Legendary Dragons.

This was a Transcendents life. When the dragon matured, the dragon would become Transcendent! And a dragon who cultivated would have the power to surpass all other dragons.

This was the principle!

It’s the same logic for those who awakened a Primordial Bloodline. If cultivated diligently, compared with others who live and cultivated lazily, the difference in power would be incomparable.

Xue Ying just wanted to further improve his power!

.....

In the Mountain Bamboo House on the rear mountain, there were two refiner dummies in an open field. These dummies were worth 5,000 gold coins each, anyone below Legend rank would absolutely be unable to harm these refiner

dummies! Even if someone at the Legend rank managed to damage them, with its self-repair ability, the dummies would not be destroyed! With this ability, this type of refiner dummy was usually used by mages for their experiments.

These dummies were specially ordered from Water Rites Town, and was crafted by an expert master! Both of them were nearly impossible to budge. Even Xue Ying's spear attacks couldn't shake it, indicating just how stable the dummy was.

*"Peng"*

*"Peng"*

The long spear struck light lightning. Sweeping, hitting, chopping and thrusting. With every move, Xue Ying's spear become even more powerful.

Although he already reached the realm of a Great Spear Master and could afford to spend minimal effort to practice his spear technique, pushing his body to the limit with practice could still benefit him greatly. After awakening his Primordial Bloodline, he possessed an amazing recovery ability. Every time he recovered, his muscle, bones and physique would slightly evolve. The accumulation of these countless evolutions greatly boosted his strength. In order for his exhausted body to recover, he would practice the 《Three Stage Flame Technique》. His exhausted state enabled him to absorb even more fire-attributed energy from his surroundings.

Besides.....

He could comprehend the nature of the Heavens and the Earth while practicing his spear.

"Hu hu hu....." sweat damped his clothes as Xue Ying felt satisfied. He could feel every part of his body became exhausted. When the exercise no longer made him exhausted enough, he would immediately increase the intensity.

Pushing his body to the limit like this, enabled him to continuously exploit his bloodline's potential.

A cycle of growth and withering grass on Snowrock Mountain, meant another year passed. With every cycle things would come and go.....

In a blink of eye, 6 years already passed.

The little girl Kong You Yue, the playful Dong Bo Qing Shi, and the talented young Dong Bo Xue Ying were now all grown up!

*“Hua hua hua~~~”*

Spring water flowed into the pond, its sound harmonizing with the tranquil scenery.

A youth wearing black motionlessly sat cross-legged on a stone with his eyes closed. His face looked as if it was carved with a chisel, partially resembling his father. His looks were quite ordinary, nothing that could be regarded as handsome! But his poised demeanor which resembled a mountain, was obviously extraordinary. At the moment he breathed very slowly, making it hard to detect whether he was breathing or not. His heartbeat also abnormally slow, only beating once every minute. His blood also circulated extremely slow.

*‘Xi~~~ Hu~~~’*

He suddenly opened his eyes, his breathing made his spine undulate like a great dragon. When he inhaled, his abdomen slightly expanded like he was inhaling an endless supply of air.

*Hu!*

When he exhaled, a violent gust of air came rushing out of his mouth and directly struck the surface of the pond in front of him. The previously calm pond explode with a loud crash, its surface suddenly sunk, with large amount of water dispersing, and splashing into the sky.

With one breath, his prior calm and slow bodily functions started to accelerate, his heartbeat also quickly returned to normal.

He stood up, dou qi surging from within his body, the red colored fire dou qi condensed, forming a protective layer that made him look like a blazing flame. After cultivating all these years, he had already lost count of the number of times he practiced 《Three Stage Flame Technique》. It was only a dou qi technique, but when he practiced it, the technique was able to astonishingly able to couple strength with gentleness.

Sometimes it's motions were slow, other times the tempo would suddenly erupt.

*"Boom!"* His palm suddenly slashed out, a high-pressure air blast rolling out from his palm. A blade of high pressure air shot across the sky, splitting a stone in the distance. With a cracking sound, the stone immediately split, crushed into countless pieces of gravel and tumbled down the hill.

Xue Ying then practiced his fist technique.

One motion lead into another.

A high-pressured air blast produced by his palm could already easily break apart a slab of stone.

*'Stop'* As he stopped, his breathing slowly returned to calmness. At this point, his dou qi had also completely vanished.

*"My strength has been slowly growing." Xue Ying pondered, "After my dou qi breaks through to Silver Moon rank, then my body will improve by leaps and bounds again."*

*"But it's still not enough!"*

Diligently cultivating, and by continuously exploiting his primordial bloodline's potential, had already given Xue Ying unfathomable power.

Because he had enough power, he didn't experience any bottlenecks upon breaking through from Heaven rank to Meteor rank. Since he accumulated enough dou qi, naturally he was able to breakthrough! Reaching Meteor rank allowed him to condensed his dou qi into liquid dou qi. This liquid dou qi was a great aid with his body transformation. In this half year period, Xue Ying's body continuously improved but lately the speed has started to slow down.

*'Although my dou qi only reached Meteor Rank, but with the addition of my awakened primordial bloodline, my body's improvements already renders it above those within the same rank.'*

*'6 years after awakening my primordial bloodline, my strength is already at the peak of Meteor Rank. According to my trial with the refined dummies, under normal circumstances, my strength would be equivalent with the ordinary peak*

*level of Legend Rank.’ thought Xue Ying. ‘ Although I still can’t reach the realm of being One with the World, that’s the only difference between me and a Legend Rank Knight. But my body is powerful enough, and once I activate the primordial bloodline, my power will be doubled.’*

With absolute power.

No one within Legend Rank would be a match for him. Unfortunately he was still unable to reach the realm of being One with the World.

*‘It’s time for the next step.’* Xue Ying thought.

“Brother Xue Ying, Brother Xue Ying.”

Suddenly a warm and beautiful voice could be heard from a distance.



## Book 2: Chapter 9 – Chosen Mission

When he heard the familiar voice, Xue Ying couldn't help but reveal a hint of a smile. He immediately picked up the Flying Snow God's Spear beside him. Within a breath's time, his body flashed like a shadow, and then reappeared more than a hundred meters away up hill.

Nearby the Bamboo House.

A slender and elegant girl wearing purple robes and carrying a basket was looking around.

She was the grown-up Kong You Yue, now 19 years old. The little girl from before had already become a real beauty. Her skin was slightly pale as she had spent a long time studying magic, but her paleness only made her look more delicate. A mage's mysterious aura could faintly be detected from her. She had indeed grown-up and had become a charming lady.

At least, among Bai Yuan Zhi's disciples, many male disciples admired her and some of them were even trying to pursue her.

"You Yue!"

Xue Ying appeared next to the Bamboo House, putting his spear aside before approaching You Yue.

"Brother Xue Ying, you mustn't exhaust yourself while practicing your spear techniques! Teacher said that during practice, people occasionally need a breather," You Yue cheerily said while standing beside a stone table. She took out some snacks from the food basket, "I've made some of your favourite pastries, try it."

"Mn."

Xue Ying could smell the pastries as he walked over, and said with a smile, "Smells good."

He picked up a soft pastry, took a bite and said, “ You Yue’s cooking skills are getting better and better.” In his childhood, he really liked this kind of pastry made by his mother. After his mother had left, he couldn’t eat this kind of pastry anymore. Although the servants would sometimes make it, the taste was different. You Yue’s cooking skills were already quite good, although not as good as his mother’s cooking in his memory, but much better than the servants.

“He he, I learnt it just for you.” You Yue said proudly.

“Wait a moment, I will return to the castle. Today, let’s eat lunch together,” said Xue Ying. He sat and quickly ate the pastry, a whole pastry vanishing into his mouth with each big bite.

“Okay, it’s already been a long time since Brother Xue Ying has returned to the castle,” You Yue replied while standing beside Xue Ying.

In a short time, all the pastries had been completely eaten by Xue Ying.

“Let’s go,” Xue Ying stood up.

“Mn.”

You Yue nodded.

A man and a woman walked side by side.

Starting from the winter when Xue Ying had turned 20, You Yue had started to reside within Snowrock Mountain. Most of her time was spent within the castle walls. She and the younger Qing Shi sometimes went to the rear mountain to visit Xue Ying. As time went by, Xue Ying and You Yue became closer and more familiar with each other.

Six years together...

To be precise, You Yue was the only girl Xue Ying still kept in touch with . He felt comfortable with You Yue. All this time, his mind only focused on the plan to rescue his parents. He wanted to rescued them as soon as possible. All this time, You Yue was just there beside him, watching him and never bothering him.

Sometimes Xue Ying also had the thought that — —

Maybe it wouldn’t be a bad idea to have You Yue as his wife.

Although it was not the same as the kind of love that his parents had for each other, he felt that he could be happy as long as they could live happily together since Xue Ying didn't have any close relationships with other girls.

Moreover, You Yue never bothered with the other Great Mage disciples' attention. Everyone could see that her whole affection was directed towards Xue Ying.

As for You Yue's father, Kong Hai, he was always trying to bring forth the matter of Xue Ying and You Yue's marriage.

"No need to rush."

"You Yue is still young. Let's wait until after I've rescued my parents, then we will discuss it again." Before he could rescue his parents, Xue Ying didn't have any intention to get married!

Because Knights and Mages prioritized training, they would tend to get married and have children relatively late. His father, Dong Bo Lie, only married his mother when he was approaching 40 years old. You Yue's father was the same. He was around 40 years old when he'd had his oldest daughter, You Yue.

For a female mage, 19 years old was still considered as being a young child. They would usually get married around 30 years old. If a female mage got married within their twenties, it was considered an early marriage.

*"To save father and mother, I have to accumulate 20,000 merit points. In order to obtain that many merit points, completing dangerous Bronze missions is the only way."* thought Xue Ying. *"Although I'm feeling confident, it is not completely safe. If something were to happen and I perish while on a mission, everything would have been for naught."*

.....

Snowrock Castle, inside the dining room within the main building.

Xue Ying, Zong Ling, Tong San, Qing Shi, and You Yue, five people were seated inside.

"Qing Shi, You Yue told me that you've already had a girlfriend for almost half a year?" Xue Ying cheerfully looked at his brother. His younger brother, Qing Shi

had become an exceptionally handsome man! Not to mention that when considering all the soldiers within Snowrock Castle, even when compared with Water Rites Town residence, it could be said that his brother was the most handsome of them all!

His brother's eyes were bright and charming! Qing shi had been good looking since childhood. Even more so now that he was 16 years old! By now, he could survive just by relying on his appearance alone. Resembling his mother, who was skilled in ice magic, his brother also faintly exuded a kind of indifferent, cool handsome man aura. Xue Ying had also heard that many female students tried to pursue him.

Xue Ying was well pleased with this matter.

At the same time, he had mixed feelings. In the blink of eye, the snotty two-year-old child who slept in his embrace was now all grown up.

"Sister You Yue, you really are a busy body, telling everything to my brother!" Qing Shi helplessly frowned.

"You are really good at keeping secrets. I only found out you have a girlfriend after half a year. Of course I had to tell your brother, after all, he is your elder brother." You Yue smilingly said.

"If your girlfriend doesn't mind, invite her over. I want to meet her." Said Xue Ying.

"Okay, I will ask her if she wants to or not." Qing Shi curled his lip.

"Oh right, I'm in the midst of preparing to go out. I'm afraid during this trip I will be gone for ten days to half a month's time." Explained Xue Ying

"What kind of business? You wouldn't be going to the Mountain Range of Desolation, right?" probed Qing Shi. Zong Ling and Tong San also looked surprised at Xue Ying's announcement.

"I can assure you I'm not entering the Mountain Range of Desolation." Xue Ying grinned. "I just want to take a trip, exploring the outside world and to practice my spear techniques."

He didn't explain in detail.

He was unwilling to speak any further about taking on a mission.

.....

At night.

Inside the study room.

The fire crystal lamp on the desk illuminated the study room. Zong Ling and Tong San were in the room.

Xue Ying, seated at the desk, said, “ Uncle Zong, Uncle Tong, I’m preparing to take a Black Iron level mission first. I want to try to accomplish this first before I advance to Bronze order. After that I will start to take on Bronze level missions.”

“Be careful,” advised Tong San.

Within the entire Snowrock Castle, only the two of them clearly understood Xue Ying’s strength. They knew that Xue Ying’s power level was already comparable with a Legend rank expert.

Xue Ying, I don’t doubt your strength. It’s just that your battle experience is still insufficient. I completely agree with you taking on a Black Iron Order mission first,” Zong Ling consented. “First accumulate some experience, then take Bronze level missions later.”

“Mn” Xue Ying nodded.

Taking on an Black Iron mission with Legend Rank capabilities, he naturally felt at ease.

“I’ve already looked at the latest mission lists. There is a very suitable mission,” Xue Ying continued.

“What kind of mission?” both Zong Ling and Tong San asked .

“Take a look for yourself”

Xue Ying picked up the mission lists from the table. One of the missions listed inside was circled. Zong Ling and Tong San approached and looked at it carefully.

The mission clearly stated:

“A territory castle within Azure River County. Investigate the castle for fugitives. The castle’s defences are quite strong. Requires five experts, at least at

the Silver Moon Knight level! Rewards: 100 Merit Points. Participants to gather at Dragon Mountain Manor within County city of Azure River County on the first day of the sixth month.”

Xue Ying explained, “I will notify Lord Si An and then immediately head to that prefecture city for the assembly. This task will not be easy, as it requires the strength of five Silver Moon Knights.. However, I believe that it will be a good experience for me.”

## Book 2: Chapter 10 - Thousands Miles Journey

The second day, at dawn.

Zong Ling, Tong San, Qing Shi, You Yue, and the others gathered to send off Xue Ying.

“Uncle Zong, I leave all the castle-related matters to you,” Xue Ying proclaimed.

“Don’t worry, Xue Ying,” replied Zong Ling. In the last six years, Zong Ling hadn’t just been idling around. He had finally reached Meteor rank.

“Brother, be careful!” Qing Shi said. After all this time, he no longer had any memories of their parents. It was Xue Ying who had always taken care of him, and therefore he was deeply attached to his elder brother.

“Brother Xue Ying, I will await your return!” You Yue shouted.

“Ha ha.....”

Xue Ying laughed heartily as he rode the Snowstrider Horse, “Hyaa!”

“Hu!”

The Snowstrider Horse immediately kicked up dust as it sped off. It quickly accelerated and swiftly disappeared into the distance.

.....

Xue Ying first went to Water Rites Town to inform Lord Si An. Lord Si An then immediately sent the information to the Dragon Mountain Manor located in Azure River County. Without taking a rest, Xue Ying hastily departed towards the prefecture city of Azure River County.

Azure River County spanned on an area wider than a thousand miles.

The distance from Xue Ying’s castle to the Prefecture city of Azure River County was around 6,000 miles. But the road was not always straight. Some sections

even made you meander through the mountains. So the actual road distance could add up to more than 10,000 miles!

*“Hyaa, hyaa!”*

Xue Ying was clad in black, lugging a weapon box on his back, as he rode the Snowstrider Horse.

The Snowstrider galloped fast as the wind, seeming like a mirage.

The Snowstrider Horse was a rank three horse-type magic beast. It was regarded as the best among its kind. Although there were many other superior magic beasts, the horse-type magic beasts had a natural disposition towards speed. A rank three horse-type magic beast’s speed was comparable to that of an ordinary rank four magic beast. Actually, with his power as a Legend ranked expert, the purpose of riding a Snowstrider Horse was to maintain a low profile. With his full strength, not to mention a rank five magic beast, even flying type magic beast wouldn’t be a match for his speed!

*“Clap clap clap!”*

As the Snowstrider Horse dashed forward, the ground shook faintly, leaving an afterimage as it passed by.

Its speed reached 900 miles per hour. Without any armor, even a Heaven Rank Knight wouldn’t dare obstruct it. But the Snowstrider Horse was valued at 2,000 gold coins. Thus, 20 Snowstrider Horses would be equivalent to the total value of Snow Eagle Territory! Therefore, common clans couldn’t afford it. Xue Ying had also just recently bought it. It was only after he had sold the Shadow Leopard’s skin and the other valuable body parts that he was able to spend some money to purchase five Snowstrider Horses.

“Stop, stop, Frost Jade Mountain is in front of us.” There were several merchants gathered in front of a great valley. They started to shout when they saw a Snowstrider Horse approaching from the distance.

“Comrade, please stop for a while. Let us cross the Frost Jade Mountain together.”

“The Frost Jade Mountain is a dangerous area!”



Many people within this merchant group, as well as their bodyguards, warned Xue Ying.

*Hu*

The Snowstrider Horse's speed didn't slow down at all, it simply flashed by like a shadow.

"Crazy!" some of the merchant's bodyguards said, perplexed.

"This knight is crazy! Does he think riding a Snowstrider Horse would allow him to travel across the mountain safely?"

"Frost Jade Mountain, could you blindly dash through this kind of place so easily?"

.....

*"Frost Jade Mountain?" Xue Ying, who rode the Snowstrider Horse, kept a keen sense of his surroundings. Obviously, he had also heard the merchant group's yells. "If I want to proceed towards the prefecture city of Azure River County, I have to go through this Frost Jade Mountain. Some parts of the Frost Jade Mountain and the Mountain Range of Desolation are merged into one. Frost Jade Mountain is also occupied by many bandit groups, which often plunders merchants passing through the mountain. The bandit groups here are even more savage than our Water Rites Town's Bent Blade Union."*

Merchant caravans usually gathered a great number of people before they traveled together through the Frost Jade Mountain.

But for Xue Ying?

In the whole Azure River County, the only ones who could threaten him would be other Legend ranked experts. Moreover, they would only be able to threaten him, whether they would be victorious... only after a battle would it be clear. As for the bandit groups? They were all looks without any substance.!

*"Hu"*

The Snowstrider Horse ran like the wind. Although they couldn't see it, from far away, people could sense the earth trembling.

“Where did this black clothed man come from? He dares to enter the Frost Jade Mountain Valley by himself?”

“Does he have a death wish?”

“”Boss, should we attack or not?

“Attack, my ass! We can’t afford to risk ourselves by attacking this person. Just give him to the ‘Eight Frost Jade Eagles’ to prey upon.” Some bandits, who saw a single rider dashing by, would choose to give up. As bandits, they would also have to consider the risks and benefits that they could undertake.

After progressing for several tens of miles, Xue Ying finally arrived in the middle section of Frost Jade Mountain Valley.

Higher up in the mountain, there was a large group of bandits, uniformly dressed in azure armor. There were, in total, a couple hundred bandits that were all well prepared. It looked as if every bandit had a superior armor and was carrying a huge crossbow, and not just any ordinary crossbow, but the Star Breaking Crossbow! This group wasn’t any ordinary bandit group. This was the largest bandit group within Frost Jade Mountain, led by eight bandit leaders, The Eight Frost Jade Eagles.

Among them were three Meteor ranked experts, two Heaven Mages, and three Heaven Knights. These eight people together were known as the ‘Eight Eagles’.

“Ha ha, our harvest today was quite good, moreover this caravan has good materials.” The bandits were in an excellent mood. Next to them were several people who had been captured alive. Most of the caravan’s company had been killed. Leaving only about ten or so survivors, among which were the elderly, some middle aged adults, and a young couple. The couple had nestled against each other, with fear reflected in their eyes. They were fearful for their lives.

“Let’s go back and rest, then check their background. Maybe we can ransom some money from their family.” In the Frost Jade Eight Eagles group, every member was violent and ruthless. Each of them had a bounty on their heads; they were heartless and would do anything to achieve their goals..

“Leader, quickly, take a look! There’s a black clothed knight coming!”

“A single person, riding on a Snowstrider Horse.”

The bandits immediately reported.

The Eight ‘Eagles’ looked towards the distant valley. There was indeed someone heading towards them.

“He dares to approach by himself?”

“Does he belittle our Frost Jade Mountain? Big Bro, should we act?” The other seven ‘Eagles’ asked their big brother.

The Frost Jade eight Eagles’ big boss looked down, he knitted his eyebrows, “There’s only a handful of Legend ranked experts within Azure River County, each of them famous throughout the land. I can recognize them from their appearance, none of them would be poor and shabby enough to ride a measly Snowstrider horse. This black clothed youngster, he looks so young, lugging a weapon box which should contain a spear. Who is he? Have you ever heard of him? Could he be a Silver Moon rank Knight?”

“Brothers! Release the arrows, let’s probe him.” The big boss ordered, “If this bone is too hard to chew, we’ll just leave. If he is weak, then we will prey upon him!”

“Yes!”

Suddenly all the bandits, including the Big Boss, took out a big crossbow or a great bow.

Ordinary bandits could exhibit formidable strength when using the Star Breaking Crossbow. It was enough to penetrate a Meteor Knight’s protective dou qi! However, the Big Boss and the other Meteor Knights were more suited to use a bow. Arrows released by a Meteor Knight could even threaten a Silver Moon Knight’s life. With these arrows, it would be enough to determine the black clothed youngster’s power.

What they didn’t know was, what kind of trouble their arrows would provoke with this black clothed youngster.

“Release!” The big boss commanded.

*Xiu xiu xiu.....*

From high above, numerous arrows shot downwards. As dense as a veil, the wave of arrows fell towards Xue Ying, who was speeding through in their direction.

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## Book 2: Chapter 11 – Prefecture City of Azure River County

“Eh?” Xue Ying looked up, as numerous arrows shot straight towards him. Each arrow shined with a cold, metallic luster, powerfully tearing into the air.

“Truly overconfident!” Xue Ying, as fast as lightning, quickly drew two parts of his spear from the weapon box on his back.

*Hu!*

Xue Ying’s spear consisted of two parts, each part being more than a meter in length. Armed with his spear, Xue Ying casually waved his hands to deflect the arrows. Because the Snowstrider Horse ran so fast, only a dozen or more arrows reached Xue Ying and with a ‘*pu, pu*’ sound, he easily deflected them as well. What’s more, not even a single arrow had harmed the Snowstrider Horse.

Immediately after Xue Ying had jumped down from the Snowstrider Horse, he rushed directly towards the hill. At the same time, the two parts of the spear united, becoming one long spear.

“It’s a tough one, retreat!” Ordered the Big Boss. From above, he had seen Xue Ying easily blocking those arrows. He knew this person was not one to be trifled with.

*Xiu!*

“Boss!”

“Not good...”

“We have provoked a calamity!”

The Big Boss and several others, even the bandits, were all frightened.

They looked below with horror. The youngster, clad in black, had jumped off his steed. He soared in the air, darting across like a shadow. Although he was only dashing up the steep mountain slope, his speed made their hearts shiver,

their feet feel like jelly, and they soon became filled with dread! Too fast! Really too fast! Their location was high up in the mountains, and the distance between them and the young man below was initially around 300 kilometers.

Normally, considering the steepness of the mountain road, which was difficult to climb, they should have enough time to retreat.

But in reality, the speed of that black-clothed youngster who was rushing up the hill was truly terrifying. The surrounding rocks and woods couldn't obstruct him at all. The inclined steep hill also wasn't an obstacle for him. His speed was faster in this bosky mountain area than before, when he had been riding the Snowstrider Horse. It was so fast, the bandits couldn't even see the black-clothed youngster's figure clearly. They could only see a blurred black shadow.

"How, how could we run into such a strong Legend ranker..." the big boss felt his head would soon explode. Sweat quickly dampened his clothes and both his legs became soft. "This kind of fast speed while going uphill, he must be a Legend Ranker! A Silver Moon Knight couldn't be this fast. Anyhow, if he was a Silver Moon knight, I would still be able to clearly see his figure and could still manage to fight with him."

"Azure River County only has a handful of Legend Rankers. Where did he come from? Where on earth did he come from?"

"How is this possible?"

"No, no....."

The Big Boss unwilling to accept the truth before him. Despair, dread, and other various complex emotions emerged. He absolutely had no thoughts of confronting the youngster, the gap between them was simply too large.

Maybe if it had been a Meteor ranker or a Silver Moon ranker, he would have been able to fight them...

But for a Silver Moon knight to fight with a Legend ranker? Usually the latter could easily annihilate the first! In front of a Legend ranker, even a Silver Moon Grand Mage couldn't cast a spell.

Thus it was obvious.....

A Legend ranker was really powerful! A one man army who really showed a mortal's limit. Meteor Knights were rendered powerless in front of a Legend ranker.

"Spare my life, please spare my life. Lord, please spare my life," said the big, burly and violent Big Boss as he suddenly knelt down, begging for his life.

*Peng!*

A spear's shadow suddenly swept down. The Big Boss' face became ashen, stricken with horror. He had no time to block it. The spear's shadow directly struck his chest. *Boom*. His whole chest sunk, his internal organs were completely shattered. Simultaneously, just like a sandbag, his body flew away, hitting a distant big tree. The big tree immediately crumbled. The Big Boss fell down, blood sprayed out from his mouth, as his eyes bulged out. He died instantly.

"Run!"

"Quickly escape!" The other chiefs and bandits became completely insane. They immediately ran away, scattering in all directions. The disparity between their strength was too far apart. Although the other party won in numbers, their spirits were already exposed to fear. They only had one thought, to escape!

*Shua, shua, shua!!!*

He was too fast!

Xue Ying's speed was astonishing, especially in the eyes of those tied up hostages. In their eyes, there appeared to be seven or eight afterimages, making it look like there were seven or eight 'Xue Yings' armed with spears attacking at the same time. With their slow speed, each and every bandit didn't have enough time to react and block his attacks. But in reality, it was no use for them to block it either way. *Pu, pu, pu*. This included the two Meteor Rank knights and the Heaven ranked Mage, who forcefully tried to cast instantaneous magic. Everyone's bodies were pierced through with the spear.

As for the magic? Faced with the high-pressure air blast that rolled out from Xue Ying's spear, the puny sharp blade-like attack magic just vanished into thin air. The magic couldn't even touch the spear's surface.

Xue Ying had successfully killed more than 30 bandits.

All the other bandits had already fled. Some went downhill, some went uphill. All in all, they fled in every direction. Xue Ying didn't care! After all, as long as the powerful backbone was gone, the rest were just helpless minions.

"Eh?" Xue Ying glanced down at the several corpses of the most powerful Bandit leaders. Nowadays, his external sense was sharper. He walked closer to the corpse and saw the Big Boss's magic storage armband.

Xue Ying extended his spear.

*Clang!*

Forced by the spear, the armband immediately detached from the arm. Xue Ying then picked it up with his spear, and the armband flew into his hand.

"My lord, please save us!"

"My lord, please save us!" the hostages pleaded. Those tied up hostages consisted of the elderly, some middle aged adults and a young couple. Their clothes were quite luxurious. They were afraid that if this powerful person left them, the bandits would return to capture them.

"*Pu, pu, pu.....*" Xue Ying walked past them as he casually waved his spear. His spearhead slashed the ropes. In a flash, the hostages had regained their freedom.

"Thank you, Lord, for saving our lives!" A white bearded elder respectfully greeted Xue Ying and then immediately murmured an order to the other people nearby, "Gather the goods and give them to the Lord."

"Understood."

The merchants swiftly gathered all the valuables. Not only their goods, which had been looted by the bandits before but the bandits' possessions as well. They searched the bandits' corpses for money, gold notes and other valuable possessions. In a short time, they had already gathered and stacked all of the valuable goods, including a Star Breaking Crossbow, together.

"My lord, these were all of the bandits' possessions, including our own merchandise which they'd looted before. All of this we give to you, my lord, as



our thanks. Thank you for saving our lives,” the white bearded elder said.

Xue Ying glanced at them.

That thick, high stack of gold notes were mainly from the “Eight Frozen Jade Eagles.” The other two Meteor rank Knights didn’t have any magical storage items. They had only been carrying a little bit of money and a few items on their bodies.

“Okay.” Xue Ying only collected the gold notes. The gold notes were worth around 80,000-90,000 gold coins. “You can take the other things, including the Star Breaking Crossbow. Maybe with it you can all protect yourselves? In what state is your looted caravan? And your horses?”

“The others are already dead, and the horses were the first to go. The Eight Frozen Jade Eagle simply didn’t care for our horses,” the old man with a white beard explained.

“Oh.”

Xue Ying nodded, “Please hasten, I will escort you through this Frozen Jade Mountain Valley. After we’ve crossed this valley, I will leave you all.”

“Thank you my lord, thank you my lord.” The white bearded elder quickly kneeled and kowtowed. The others also quickly followed him, kneeling and kowtowing. This Frozen Jade Mountain Valley was occupied by numerous bandit groups. They were just a group of old and young people. Without Xue Ying’s help, it would be really hard for them to get out alive from this valley.

“Quickly, I will not wait for you.” Xue Ying had already jumped down. The distance until the bottom of the hill was around 200 miles, but Xue Ying didn’t care. He directly jumped to the bottom, *peng*, the ground was shaken. He didn’t even have to bend his knees.

“Not bad.” Xue Ying bound the magical storage item. The storage space was only half the size of the space provided by the magic storage pendant his mother gave him. “The bandit leaders’ gold notes were worth another 150,000 gold coins. My Snowrock Castle was short on money, but now I’ve already gained this much.”

Although he had sold the Shadow Leopard’s skin and the other valuable body

parts for several tens thousands gold coins, when his brother had become a personal disciple, Xue Ying had gifted his brother with a fine magical storage space item and a magic staff. Common magic staves were already worth more than 5,000 gold coins. Because Qing Shi's magic power was still weak, he still couldn't efficiently showcase a high grade magic staff's power. But Xue Ying had given Qing Shi a large capacity magical storage item. Xue Ying had spent 50,000 gold coins for the magical storage item, and its capacity was also two times bigger than his mother's magic storage pendant.

When his power had reached Legend rank, Xue Ying had also changed his inner armor to second grade refined protection armor. So when he battled with other Legend ranker experts, the armor could now at least protect his vital points.

He had also exchanged his boots and clothes with ones made from refined material. But these had still been cheap. The expensive one had been his inner armor, which had cost 30,000 gold coins! So Xue Ying was now short on money.

The formidable Legend rank expert.....

Had become jolly just for several ten thousands gold coins? If other Legend rank experts knew this, they would laugh. After all, Legend ranked experts, what kind of status did they have?

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After escorting these dozen people who had been lucky enough to keep their lives out of Frozen Jade Mountain Valley, Xue Ying no longer cared for them. He split from them and then spurred the Snowstrider Horse.

After a day of riding, Xue Ying spent a night inside Yellow Dragon City.

At dawn on the second day, Xue Ying continued his journey. After a whole day of riding, he had finally arrived at the Prefecture City of Azure River County at dusk.

"After two full days on the road, I've finally arrived. This is the Prefecture City of Azure River County?" Xue Ying looked into the distance. In the distance stood a huge, majestic city. The city was so big, it was difficult for normal people to see where it ended.

Atop this majestic city wall, after each mile there was a mounted black sphere.

Each black sphere’s surface was decorated with a golden pattern. The whole majestic city emitted some kind of invisible power. Common people couldn’t sense this invisible power but Xue Ying had a sharp Qi sensory ability. With his extraordinary sense, he could detect this invisible power.

The Prefecture City of Azure River County had more than ten million citizens. Compared to Dragon Mountain Manor and the Empire, this city had a much longer history.

As a matter of fact, Provincial and Prefecture cities usually had long histories. Although the dynasties changed, this kind of ancient city would continue to exist under the new reign. The city was also fortified with magic, making it more impregnable. The Provincial capital was even more formidable. Each city could have more than 100 million citizens. Its size was more imposing, almost like an independent country. It is said that even the Gods’ conjoined forces still couldn’t shake the provincial capital’s defense.

“This is truly eye-opening. I feel that if the entire defence of this Azure River County’s prefectural city fully activated, every black sphere could easily kill me. That black sphere’s power is absolutely at the Transcendent power level.” Xue Ying sighed. However he was unaware that each time they were activated, these black spheres consumed an astonishing amount of energy.

“Enter.”

Still riding his Snowstrider Horse, Xue Ying entered the huge, majestic Prefectural city of Azure River County.

## Book 2: Chapter 12 – Assemble

The prefecture city of Azure River County had a population of over ten million. With this number, one could imagine how huge the city was. Although the road inside the city was very broad, the Snowstrider Horse's speed could only be considered walk for the horse. The distance from the city gate to Dragon Mountain Manor was only around ten miles, but it took him about two hours to arrive there. The sky had already darkened by then.

"I have finally arrived.." Xue Ying looked at the Dragon Mountain Manor in front of him.

Fire crystal lamps illuminated the Dragon Mountain Manor in front of him. Compared to Water Rites Town's Dragon Mountain Manor, this one even was bigger. The enormous front wall circling it was probably one or two miles long.

The building was also surrounded by a group of guards patrolling around.

"Dismount!" There were two soldiers with black armor standing guard at the main gate. Their imposing auras gave off the feeling that their level was at least Meteor Rank.

Xue Ying dismounted and showed his Black Iron Order with a flip of his hand, saying, "The county should already be informed of my arrival." One of the surrounding black armored guard soldiers walked over and said with a smile, "Are you Dong Bo Xue Ying from Water Rites Town?"

"Yes, that's me." Xue Ying nodded.

"Indeed, we've already been informed about your arrival. Just leave your horse with me. After you go inside, someone will take you to your living quarters." The black armored guard helped Xue Ying pull the horse.

"Sorry to trouble you." Xue Ying gave the horse to the black armored guard, and directly entered the Dragon Mountain Manor through the main gate.

The trees, flowers, and grasses located inside the huge Dragon Mountain

Manor compound were all very beautiful.

There were fire crystal lamps scattered between the flowers and grasses. Although the sky had already darkened, the whole area inside Dragon Mountain Manor was illuminated by fire crystal lamps.

“Lord Dong Bo, please come with me,” a maid greeted Xue Ying. “All guests from outside reside in the Auspicious Bright Garden. We have already prepared a small courtyard inside the Auspicious Bright Garden for my Lord. My Lord, please don’t wander outside of the Auspicious Bright Garden so you do not get lost and accidentally enter any important restricted areas of Dragon Mountain Manor. Just wait until tomorrow morning and someone will come to guide my Lord to see the Lord of the Manor.”

“Mn.” Xue Ying nodded.

Inside Dragon Mountain Manor, there were paved paths, surrounded by exotic flowers and lush vegetation. Some of the walls were even vaguely lined with magic arrays.

Xue Ying and the maid walked awhile before they arrived in front of a garden’s gate.

“This is the Auspicious Bright Garden.” The maid led the way, “The small courtyard we have provided for My Lord is located inside.”

“It looks like there are many courtyards here.” Xue Ying smiled as he looked around. There were ten small courtyards, divided into two rows. The two rows faced each other and each contained five smaller courtyards.

“This Prefecture City’s missions often require some experts to come over. Today, not many people came. This Auspicious Bright Garden is only half full. Usually, this place is unable to accommodate all the guests,” explained the maid. “This is My Lord’s place for the night,” said the maid while opening the courtyard door.

Suddenly, the door of the opposite small courtyard creaked open.

Xue Ying turned his head to look.

When the opposite courtyard’s door opened, a maid came out while holding a

plate. Behind her, a young woman wearing an azure robe prepared to close the door. She saw Xue Ying standing across her courtyard, and realized that this black clothed young man would, from now on, stay at the courtyard across the street.

“Female Mage.” Xue Ying could sense it.

This azure robed young woman’s body exuded a mage’s mysterious aura. This mysterious aura was actually magic power. Moreover, she also faintly emitted a trace of coldness. Xue Ying was familiar with this kind of aura. His own mother and brother were skilled in ice magic. The young woman in front of him obviously was also skilled in the same kind of magic.

*“But her aura, I felt that it was even more powerful than Bai Yuan Zhi.”* Xue Ying was surprised.

Xue Ying was also amazed by the young appearance of the female mage.

Among all the the men he had met before, his brother was the most handsome. However, this azure robed female mage.... among all the girls he had ever met, she was the fairest one! Her beauty was like a snow lotus on a snowy mountain; she had a very special kind of character. Actually, Water Rites Town also had many beautiful girls. For example You Yue, byr appearance, she could be counted among the ten most beautiful women Xue Ying had ever met.

But this azure robed young woman had instantly made Xue Ying recognize her as the most beautiful one because of her character! A very special kind of character!

“All mages are full of wisdom. The more powerful they are, the more knowledgeable they are. This woman looks so young, but seems stronger than Bai Yuan Zhi.” Xue Ying felt amazed.

But he didn’t know.

While he was feeling amazed by the person in front of him, the azure robed female mage also felt that the youth in front of her was not very simple. Many years spent comprehending the nature of Heaven and Earth made Xue Ying’s appearance more reserved, and his qi more natural and refined. This kind of reserved and refined feeling made the azure robed female mage secretly

startled, *“He’s obviously not a mage, yet to think he could train his spirit to this level.....”*

Mages emphasized the training of their spirit, soul, and other similar aspects.

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The two people glanced at each other, both nodding and smiling politely.

*“Creak.”* The azure robed female mage closed her door.

Xue Ying also entered his small courtyard.

“Lord Dong Bo, in a moment, I will send someone to bring you some food. I will not disturb you any longer.” The maid then retreated.

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Early morning on the second day.

Not long after Xue Ying finished eating his breakfast, the Dragon Mountain Manor’s maid came to guide Xue Ying. Today was the day when Dragon Mountain Mansion would announce the details about the mission.

Inside a secluded hall.

When Xue Ying entered the hall, he immediately saw a tall, sturdy, white-haired old man. When the old man saw Xue Ying, he also nodded slightly .

“My Lord, feel free to find a place to sit. When everyone has gathered, the Manor Master will come as well,” said the maid.

Xue Ying sat down.

After Xue Ying sipped the tea and put down the teacup, someone entered the hall from outside. This person was the azure robed female mage he met yesterday night. When she glanced around, the mage also saw the tall, sturdy, white-haired old man and Xue Ying. She was a bit surprised. What a coincidence that yesterday, they found out that they stayed adjacent to one another, and today, they immediately met again. She slightly nodded towards Xue Ying and the white haired old man before sitting down as well.

“Is it Mage Jing Qiu?” The old man’s eyes became brighter, then said, “I had never expected to see Mage Jing Qiu here. What a coincidence, I’m Tang Xiong!”

Xue Ying was somewhat surprised.

The Dragon Mountain Book had listed and briefly explained every expert within Azure River County; he himself had already read that list.

Tang Xiong was a 160 year old Silver Moon Knight. At his age, he had no more hope of breaking through to the Legend rank.

As for Mage Jing Qiu..... she was terrific.

As a renowned personage in the entire Azure River County, Yu Jing Qiu, who originally came from an ordinary background, had entered the Eternal Wind Academy to study magic. At the age of twenty, she became a Meteor rank Mage and stayed at the Eternal Wind Academy as a teacher. Moreover, when she was 23 years old, she broke through to the Silver Moon rank! According to Xue Ying's calculations, Yu Jing Qiu was only 25 years old now.

She's 25 years old and already an experienced Silver Moon Mage! Her talent was really frightening! The Eternal Wind Academy's Transcendent Great Mage also considered her as family. So young... she had more than a 90% possibility of reaching Legend rank.

"So that's her," Xue Ying now understood.

"Ha ha ha..." suddenly, from outside, entered two other people.

One was a somber looking youth, the other was a black haired old man.

The sombre looking youth's attire was clearly extraordinary and caused changes in the surrounding atmosphere; he wore a sturdy refined armor.

"Jing Qiu, I didn't think you were here too." The sombre looking youth became excited. "Ha ha, this time I came out for some experience and casually picked a task, but I did not expect to encounter Jing Qiu. That's quite a coincidence, it looks like our fate's not an ordinary one."

The azure robed female Mage slightly frowned, "Yes, what a coincidence..."

The somber looking youth glanced around. He saw the white haired old man, and he also saw a black clothed youth who was younger than him. This made his eyes flash with discontentment. He shot a glance at the white haired old man as if to say *'get out of the way.'*



“Is it Lord Bai Rong?” asked the white-haired old man, Tang Xiong, who obediently stood at his side, not disturbing the young man and the female mage.

Bai Rong?

Xue Ying also knew the identity of the person , Si Bai Rong!

Si Bai Rong was currently more than 50 years old. He was the top prodigy of Azure River County Si Clan’s younger generation. A Silver Moon Knight could usually live up to 200 years, so at 50 years of age, their appearance still looked like a youngster’s! With his relatively young age, Si Bai Rong had a high possibility of reaching Legend rank. Because of his potential future, his position within the Si Clan was very high.

Si Clan was an omnipresent clan within Azure River County.

If they said you’re guilty, then you’re guilty. No one would dare to refute them! Therefore, even though both of them were Silver Moon Knights, Tang Xiong would still suck up to him. After all, the Si Clan was not an existence to offend. It was a trivial matter for the Si Clan to catch a Silver Moon Knight. They simply needed to say any random reason to justify their deeds. Only by breaking through to Legend rank could someone have the power to oppose them. A clan established by a Legend rank could have a standing relatively equal with the Si Clan.

The somber looking youth sat down beside the female mage. He leaned closer, “Jing Qiu, why do you always avoid me? I’m so sad that you’re doing this.”

*Hua.*

The azure robed female mage stood up and walked away. However, this hall was not that big. She took a glance, then went to the nearby Xue Ying and sat down beside him.

“Jing Qiu.” Si Bai Rong walked over. He suddenly glanced at Xue Ying, obviously feeling that Xue Ying was a hindrance. Si Bai Rong frowned, then coldly said, “Move.”

Xue Ying held his tea cup and took a sip, paying absolutely no attention to Si Bai Rong.

Si Bai Rong's face immediately became ugly.

*"Humph!"* he coldly snorted.

*"Ha ha, is everyone here?"* A laugh came from the outside just as a red robed bald old man came in.

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## Book 2: Chapter 13 – The Holy Ground

“*Humph!* Very good.” Then, in a low voice, Si Bai Rong asked the black-haired old man next to him, “Old man, who is this brat?”

“According to his appearance and the spear on his back, he should be Dong Bo Xue Ying of the Water Rites Town,” the black-haired old man replied. “He should be twenty-two this year. By the time he was fifteen, he had single-handedly exterminated the entire Bent Blade Union. Since he has dared to undertake this mission, he should already be a Silver Moon knight.”

“Twenty-two years old?”

Bai Rong’s mood turned for the worse.

He was already past fifty, and now he had met such a young Silver-Moon knight. Of course he would be unhappy!

“*Humph!*” Bai Rong coldly snorted, before taking a seat at the side. The black-haired old man followed suit.

The red-robed old man swept a glance across the five of them – Si Bai Rong, the black-haired old man, Tang Xiong, Mage Jing Qiu and lastly, Xue Ying.

“All five experts have arrived. You can call me Yuan Wu, the chief of Azure River County’s Dragon Mountain Manor,” the red-robed old man spoke in a welcoming manner. “I believe that all of you have heard of my name, though this is my first time meeting Mage Jing Qiu and Dong Bo Xue Ying.”

Yu Jing Qiu and Xue Ying smiled at that.

“Manor Lord, please cut the pleasantries. Just tell us what we will be doing,” Bai Rong said.

“There is no rush.”

Yuan Wu’s whole expression suddenly became ice-cold. “Before receiving the mission, I would like to first remind you five experts which are the most

fundamental rules!”

“First rule – everything pertaining to this mission, including the information about your companions, must be kept within these four walls. Leakage of any detail relating to the mission will be deemed as failure. But it doesn’t end here. According to our rules, both you and your companions for this mission will receive reprisal from our manor, and if we are to discover you guilty of leaking classified information, nobody will be able to save you.”

“Second rule – this is a mission of the most difficult level among the Black Iron level. Nobody can guarantee your safety. If you lose your life, you can only blame it on your bad luck.”

“I want you to know these two rules in advance. If you can not accept these conditions, please leave now!”

Yuan Wu glanced across the five experts.

Even after hearing the strict rules, Xue Ying and the rest of the experts did not leave.

“Manor Lord, we already know the rules ,” the white-haired Tang Xiong replied.

“*Hmph*. There is no such thing as absolute safety when venturing out into the unknown. If you are afraid, it is much better to just return home early.” Bai Rong took a quick glance at Xue Ying. In front of his ‘beloved’ Mage Jing Qiu, Bai Rong would use all the strength he possessed to suppress anyone who dared to steal her attention. Right at this moment, his only adversary was that brat Xue Ying. After all, the other two experts, his own protector and Tang Xiong, were already old and did not pose any threat to him.

It was just him. That Dong Bo Xue Ying brat who had managed to make his mood sour.

“Very good.”

Yuan Wu nodded. “Since everyone understands the possibility of death in this mission, and the confidentiality of everything pertaining to it, I will now begin explaining what this mission entails.”

Xue Ying, Jing Qiu and the rest of the experts listened carefully.

Any small carelessness due to a lack of understanding of the mission could be fatal.

“This time, the objective of the mission is to kill the chief of Azure River County’s Qu Tai Town number one clan, the Lu Clan’s Lu Huai Ru. Mission perimeters will be restricted to the Lu Clan’s castle.”

“Lu Huai Ru? He is a Meteor-ranked mage. According to the rumours, there are only three or four other Meteor ranked knights in his Lu Clan. With such prowess, why is there even a need for the five of us to work together? Having such weak opponents, how could our lives even be endangered?” Bai Rong replied suspiciously.

The Dragon Mountain Manor Lord solemnly replied, “Lu Huai Ru is very well-versed in the arts of refining. As such, in the entire castle, there are still plenty of dangers. But the most important point is..... there is actually a Demonic Emissary within our Azure River County’s holy ground.”

“What!?”

The expressions of all five experts instantly turned pale.

A Demonic Emissary?

In the entire empire, there was only a single orthodox type of temple, that was the Temple of the Earth God. Other than that, everything else was considered unorthodox and related to the Demon God. Even the first Dragon Mountain emperor would not be able to build a religion towards his own glory.

But at the same time—

Any Demonic Emissary who dared to enter this world was extremely terrifying. Nobody in their right minds would treat this matter lightly.

“Any matter involving the Demonic Emissary are matters to be handled carefully. Here, within the holy ground of our Azure River County, there are just some low-ranked cultivators. Your opponents only have a few Meteor-rankers. The degree of threat is not as high, and thus, we decided to only send five of you over. Since you already know the mission, if you decide not to go, you are not

allowed to leave this Dragon Mountain Manor until the mission has ended.” Said the Manor Lord “Are there any other questions?”

“Within the castle of the Lu Clan, are there any Silver-Moon rankers? Any Legend rankers?” Jing Qiu asked.

“Until now, we have not found any! They might possibly have some hidden strength within, but from what I believe, the chances of a Legend-ranker appearing is not that high! Legend-rankers are already quite rare in this region. What’s more, they would not be willing to waste their time in such a small area, when they have the entire empire to wander.

“The cult of the Demon God can only spend their time hiding in the dark. I highly doubt they would have the luxury and resources to send a Legend ranker to such a secluded place,” Bai Rong added.

“Alright. If there are no further questions, we will be starting our mission now!” Yuan Wu stated. “Our Dragon Mountain Manor will arrange a flying-ship to send you to the target location.”

Bai Rong turned towards Jing Qiu, “Jing Qiu, this is quite a dangerous mission. You are a mage, so it would be better if you were to stick closer to us. We will definitely protect you.”

Yu Jing Qiu frowned.

She was already very tired of this Bai Rong trying to chase after her day in, day out. Yet, her family was located at the Azure River County, and thus, she did not want to create even more trouble back at home with the Si Clan.

At this moment, Xue Ying had already taken his weapon box and began walking out of the manor. Jing Qiu started walking in the same direction as him.

“*Tsk*. That Xue Ying doesn’t even have a single storage treasure. Even now, he still has to carry that weapon box on his back,” Bai Rong snorted.

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In the suburbs of Azure River County, there was a majestic castle covering a full three miles of a wide, open plain. It was much bigger than Xue Ying’s own Snowrock castle.

This was the Lu Clan’s castle.

The castle was divided into an outer region, and an inner region.

The inner region of the castle was shaped like an octagon, as if there was an eccentric monster lying within it. This castle formation had been personally arranged by Lu Huai Ru after numerous studies. The interior was filled with a large number of Trap Arrays. The closer one got to the bottom of the castle, the more dangerous it was.

“My Divine Lord, are the servants prepared by this lowly-one pleasant enough?” Lu Huai asked reverentially.

Lying nearby, at one side, was a monster-like man.

This man had a very sturdy body, with a waist as wide as a water tank. He was two and a half metres tall, with arms much thicker than that of the average person. He had a needle-like beard and a pair of slightly droopy eyes. Occasionally, when those eyes opened, one could feel the terrible intent within. His breathing could cause the surroundings to tremor, and the ladies next to him were all perpetually jittery.

“They are alright. Just average,” the monster-like warrior replied. “Why? Could it be that you are extremely afraid of me?”

“My Divine Lord’s strength could cause the world to tremble. This one certainly fears it.”

“Do not worry, I’m just here to take a little rest. Moments ago, I had a narrow escape from the Infernal Realm. That almost made me forget how wonderful this mortal world is! Alright, you go gather more beauties. It would be best if you could get some powerful female mages. Ordinary mortals really do not have much taste.” The monster spoke, before picking up the piece of meat next to him and began to eat earnestly.

“Yes, yes yes, My Divine Lord. Please do not worry. I will go right now to get some powerful mage beauties to present to you, My Divine Lord.”

“Go! Don’t hinder my enjoyment here.”

## Book 2: Chapter 14 – Threats

A flying-ship was parked on the grassland in front of Dragon Mountain Manor. The ship was covered by 20-30 meters worth of silvery-white colored magic patterns.

“Everyone, please get on the ship.” Yuan Wu escorted Xue Ying and five others to the ship location.

“A beautiful flying-ship!” Xue Ying could recognize beauty when he saw it. This was the first time he had ever seen a flying-ship. Before this, he had only heard about them. *“The price of the cheapest refiner flying-ship is already more than 200,000 gold coins and only Legend rankers or very influential people can afford it usually.”*

Si Bai Rong looked at Xue Ying’s reaction, and silently mocked him. “Lord Yuan, I see that this refiner flying-ship’s body is made from ‘Aquasilver metal’, and the cabin is made from glass. I can estimate that the ship’s value should be around 500,000 gold coins.”

“Ha ha ha, your Si Clan would need to invite several master refiners to acquire a refiner flying-ship, but this one was sent by our Dragon Mountain Manor headquarters. We didn’t even have to pay for it. Moreover, this refiner flying-ship was crafted by our provincial city’s Dragon Mountain Manor Master Refiner, so its cost was low. I estimate our expenses must have been only around 300,000 gold coins,” replied Yuan Wu.

Although he had guessed wrongly, Si Bai Rong kept his composure and replied, “Amazing! I was actually thinking of buying a refiner flying-ship. Could I buy a ship from Dragon Mountain Manor?”

“Of course you can. But it will have to be at the original price like other ships of the same quality.” Yuan Wu smiled and continued, “We can’t sell it to you at raw cost. The master refiners also have to get some profit.”



*“Dong dong dong.”*

Jing Qiu was first to board the flying-ship. She really loathed Si Bai Rong because the latter often used his clan to oppress others. This time he had talked so much, wasn't it just to show others that he could afford a refiner flying-ship? Jing Qiu had been training under a Transcendent Great Mage. Her goal was to be like her master, to become a Transcendent.

That was real power! Showing off? Using your clan's power to oppress others? So superficial!

*“Dong dong dong.”* Xue Ying also boarded the flying-ship. With no target to show off to, Si Bai Rong and his bodyguard, Liang Yong, and Tang Xiong, who followed him blindly, also boarded the flying-ship.

“Have a safe trip!”

Yuan Wu looked in the distance while standing on the grassland.

*Hu...*

The flying-ship quickly soared to the sky, ascending higher. After it reached more than a kilometer altitude, the ship started speeding away. The longer the ship flew, the higher the altitude it reached, until it flew so far high that it vanished into the horizon.

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Inside the flying-ship cabin.

The cabin was entirely made of transparent glass. The people inside could see the outside scene, and the glass also faintly reflected its colorful reflections. The ship's overall design was truly magnificent.

“Everyone.”

There were two people from Dragon Mountain Manor responsible for the ship operations. One of them, a male wearing silver white armor, looked at Xue Ying and the others and said, “Do you all want to attack Lu Clan's Castle at night or during the day? If you want to attack in the day, our flying-ship can fly at top speed and arrive at the castle in two hours. But if you're not in a rush, the flying-ship can fly slower, and arrive at the castle around nightfall.”

“There is no difference between attacking during night or day,” replied Jing Qiu with her melodious voice. “That Lu Huai Ru is a Meteor rank Mage, and also a refiner expert. The place is also extremely hidden, he must have already set several alarm array. As soon as we go inside, the mechanism will probably activate automatically and warn him of our existence.

“Jing Qiu is a Silver Moon Mage. If she says there will be an alarm array, then there will definitely be one!” Si Bai Rong exclaimed. “Since we will be discovered no matter what we do, then we’ll just attack during day. The sooner the better.”

“No need to rush, just attack at nightfall,” said Jing Qiu, “At nightfall, when the castle’s soldiers are changing shifts or preparing dinner. At this time, the castle security will be more lax, while during the day, security will be tighter. Moreover, the darkness of the night will affect the trapping arrays.”

“Jing Qiu is very clever,” praised Si Bai Rong.

“Okay, so we will strike at nightfall.” The two ship operators from Dragon Mountain Manor immediately made decisions accordingly. In fact, flying slower would save more energy, so attacking at night time would also be the most economical choice.

Xue Ying quickly walked out of the cabin and onto the flying-ship’s deck.

“The feeling sure is different.”

The wind on deck was relatively strong.

Thanks to the flying-ship’s design, however, the wind only whistled past it, not affecting the passengers on board. The wind on deck was already several times weaker than the wind blowing against the ship.

“Hu...” Standing at the deck while holding the ship’s railing, Xue Ying looked at the floating clouds. Below the clouds, he could vaguely see the vast terrain. The scenery was truly beautiful, making Xue Ying feel somewhat relaxed.

“*Dong dong dong.*” Another person came on deck.

Turning his head to look, Xue Ying saw that the person was Si Bai Rong. The latter’s clothes were rather extravagant, the kind that nobility would usually wear. He also walked towards the railing, admiring the scenery, “Despite seeing

it so many times before, seeing the world from aboard a flying-ship still is fascinating. Dong Bo Xue Ying, this must be your first time taking a flying-ship.”

Xue Ying ignored him.

“I know you, Dong Bo Xue Ying from Water Rites Town. Your parents were captured by the Mo Yang Clan, and you also have a younger brother named Dong Bo Qing Shi, right?” said Si Bai Rong.

Xue Ying frowned at him.

“Our Si Clan knows everything that happens within Azure River County.” Si Bai Rong looked at him, and continued, “To exterminate your small Dong Bo Clan would be an easy feat for our Si Clan. Let’s see, your Dong Bo Clan has two beastmen of different races, one a Lion-man, the other a Six Armed Demon Serpent, right? I remember that there were several traitors and rebels amongst the beastmen races. With some random excuse, like saying your Dong Bo Clan is sheltering a rebellious traitor, the clan would be finished. After that, we would destroy your dantian and qi sea, making you unable to remain a knight. We could also destroy your brother’s magic and then make both of you work as slaves. How do you feel about that?”

Si Bai Rong had spoken freely.

But his words were filled with threat and malice.

Usually, Xue Ying wouldn’t care about this type of man, a big clan’s disciple. This time, Si Bai Rong’s words had made him furious, especially because of the threat directed at his brother! Xue Ying had seen his brother grow up since childhood. He had always cherished him, and now Si Bai Rong said that he wanted to make his little brother a slave?

“Si Bai Rong,” Xue Ying said.

“Hm?” Si Bai Rong slightly smiled at Xue Ying, he was already used to seeing other minor clans bow before his Si Clan. “Do you know your fault? As long as today you recognize your fault and bow, then later send me 50,000 gold coins, then the interactions between us never happened.”

“Si Bai Rong,” Xue Ying coldly said. “Has anyone ever told you that you are an idiot?”

Si Bai Rong was stunned, “You...”

“You are an idiot! Even a three-year-old child would be smarter than you,” Xue Ying coldly said. “This time, we are going to Qu Tai Town to deal with the Demonic Emissary in our Azure River County’s holy ground. There will be five of us fighting together, but this mission can still bring great danger. At a time like this, you foolishly try to threaten me? Let’s say that I complied to your request, I will most likely have a grudge with you, right? When the time to attack Lu clan’s Castle comes, if I plot against you at a the critical moment, you could even lose your life.”

“If you really want to intimidate and threaten me, then wait until the mission has already ended.”

“Except for making me hold a grudge against you, there’s no other use for your threat, right?” Xue Ying frowned, “Can you now admit that you’re really not an idiot?”

“You, you...” Si Bai Rong’s face became ugly, “You’re really not afraid of me...”

“It’s up to you!” said Xue Ying, “But you have to risk bearing the consequences. And maybe the consequences won’t be as good as you think!” Xue Ying turned around and walked towards the cabin. He was too lazy to talk with this idiot any longer.

He considered this mission a way for him to accumulate some experience.

After this task finished, he would apply for Bronze Order and take on a few Bronze-rank missions. A Legend ranker’s power was entirely different. Ordinary city guards or similar army soldiers were powerless in front of a Legend ranker. Not to mention countering them, ordinary mortals stood no chance against their power. Therefore, when a Legend ranker committed a crime, it was up to the Dragon Mountain Manor to punish them!

The Si Clan would often threaten people whose strength was still under the Legend rank. Only a Legend ranker could have the opportunity to stand at the same level as them.

Si Liang Hong was definitely among the top five hundred powers listed in the Dragon Mountain Book. Unless it was unavoidable, Xue Ying didn’t want to

become enemies with Si Liang Hong.

“You, you...” Clenching his teeth, Si Bai Rong looked at Xue Ying, who was now entering the ship’s cabin. “He dares to ignore me, dares to ignore me! Good, very good! I will remember you! Just wait until this mission has finished, I will....”

“Hm?”

Si Bai Rong’s expression suddenly changed, “This damned brat, he couldn’t be plotting against me in the middle of the mission, right?

## Book 2: Chapter 15 – Arrival

“I mustn’t give him a chance... I must ensure that old Liang follows closely behind me.”

Si Bai Rong was genuinely worried about Xue Ying and his devious tricks that could befall him during the mission.

“For now, this young master will spare you, Xue Ying brat! I will not bother to argue with you. *Humph!* Wait until the end of this mission... You’ll see how this young master is going to deal with you.”

A twenty-two-year old Silver Moon Knight?

The gap between a Silver Moon Knight and a Legend ranker was a single step... yet this one step was as large as the the sky.

In order to successfully cultivate from an ordinary Human Knight to a Silver Moon Knight, one could simply depend on his or her own innate talent, coupled with the use of resources and a powerful dou qi cultivating technique. As for Si Bai Rong, it was precisely the fact that he had good innate talent, along with the support of his family, that allowed him to reach the ranks of Silver Moon Knight. Yet... he had been stuck at this stage for a very long time.

One needed to have a powerful soul in order to cross into the Legend rank. Other than this, a cultivator also reach the level of ‘One with the World’ before he could utilise the forces of the heaven and earth to overcome the obstacles between the Silver Moon stage and the Legend stage.

Becoming ‘One with the World’?

Si Bai Rong had already been a Silver Moon Knight for many years... Needless to say, Tang Xiong and Liang Yong, these two much older experts, had been stuck at this stage for a very long time. The reason behind that was because they could not comprehend the idea of being ‘One with the World’.

That being said, the path of Mages was different from that of the Knights.

Knights were heavily dependent on one's body and strength. Conversely, mages attached a greater importance to the power of knowledge and wisdom.

A mage was required to investigate and discover the wonders of nature in all its greatness, and the many laws within it before being able to grasp magic. Therefore, the greater the power a mage had, the more wisdom he would hold. Generally, mages who were able to reach the level of Silver Moon were extraordinary in terms of wisdom. It was precisely for this reason that the world was shocked by how frighteningly talented Yu Jing Qiu was. Entering the ranks of Silver Moon at such a young age, if she were to continue with her path of discovery in understanding nature in all its greatness... within the next hundred or so years of her life, there was a great chance of Jing Qiu reaching the state of being 'One with the World'.

Mages had to rely on research in order to reach the realm of 'One with the World'!

As for the aspiring Knights who wished to achieve that state of being 'One with the World', it was of multitude times harder than for Mages! Most Knights around the world were uneducated, and thus did not even have the possibility of knowing what being 'One with the World' was. Thus, even though Xue Ying had managed to become a Silver Moon Knight at such a young age, Yu Jing Qiu did not put much thought into it. After all, in the eyes of the public, Xue Ying was someone who had depended on his great innate talent and his luck in order to achieve what he was today.

However, only Xue Ying himself knew of the six years of effort that he had spent within that bamboo house of his, cultivating and trying to understand the laws of nature. Even though Xue Ying's spear technique had reached the Grandmaster level by incorporating some of nature's laws within it, he had yet to achieve the state of being 'One with the World'.

Regardless of that, Xue Ying still had a very powerful body which gave him the strength of a Legend Knight. The moment he utilised his primordial bloodline, he could even become several times stronger.

Thus, it could be said that Xue Ying had already stepped into the rank of a

Legend Knight.

“Just a simple brat with good luck, and yet he dares to go against me? How foolish...” Bai Rong scoffed behind his back, before heading back towards the cabin of the flying ship.

“Jing Qiu!” Bai Rong called out.

“What is it?” Jing Qiu opened her eyes from her meditation.

“You best be careful when we assault the castle of the Lu family later, and especially pay attention to that Dong Bo Xue Ying. That brat is still young and immature. I am afraid that when the assault begins, he might do something behind our back. That is why I think you should just follow me and old Liang. We will certainly protect you from any danger.”

“Doing something behind our back? Why would Xue Ying do that?” Jing Qiu hesitated.

“Just heed my words and be careful. That’s all.” Bai Rong left after that.

Yu Jing Qiu frowned at that. Looking at Bai Rong who was walking further away from her and the black-clothed Xue Ying sitting cross-legged on the other end, she whispered to herself, “What exactly happened outside at the deck? Did an argument break out between the two of them? Looking at Xue Ying... He doesn’t look like a reckless person. *Ah...* I hope that nothing unexpected will happen in this mission...”

She was feeling a bit anxious.

*“Huu...”*

Xue Ying sat down cross-legged and both his heartbeat and breath grew slower and slower. At the same time, his awareness towards the surrounding became even clearer, even the breaths of everyone around him. Jing Qiu’s breathing, Tang Xiong’s, Bai Rong’s, Liang Yong’s, the breathing of those two experts controlling the flying-ship, and even the passing wind outside. He could feel all of it.

With a heart as calm as still-water, as tranquil as the surface of a mirror, he had become one with the world.



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The sky was slowly turning dark.

The silvery-white flying-ship had been flying nonstop among the clouds.

“We have arrived.” Xue Ying’s breathing and heartbeat rate turned back to normal as he ended his state of meditation. He looked outside and sensed that the entire flying-ship slowing down.

“Fellow experts, you can start preparing to land from the flying-ship. We will be reaching the Lu family’s castle soon,” the ship-controller expert said.

“We’ve already arrived?”

“We will be assaulting the castle soon.”

One by one, the experts began standing up. Even though they were all partaking in the same mission, with a single goal, they all had different feelings about it.

This was Si Bai Rong’s first time participating in such a dangerous mission. As a result, he decided to bring a Silver Moon Knight from his family with him. Even so, he was still feeling uneasy, but he dared not show any sign of weakness in order to prove his strength and resolve to Jing Qiu, .

Tang Xiong, on the other hand, was calm. Having lived for over a hundred and sixty years, he felt as if nothing could stand in his way.

Liang Yong was alert. After all, his foremost task within this mission was to protect young master Bai Rong.

This was Yu Jing Qiu’s very first mission. Although she was feeling kind of anxious, her mentality as a mage allowed her to face everything with a calm mind.

As for Xue Ying? He did not have any fear with the strength of a Legend rank knight. All he had was a somewhat puzzling curiosity towards the Lu Clan’s castle.

“Fellow experts.”

Xue Ying and the rest of the experts began walking towards the deck. Looking

downwards from the flying-ship, they could clearly see a majestic castle. Right now, they were just about 300 metres away from the castle. However, because of the mist shield produced by the Arrays on the flying-ship, people looking up from below couldn't see the ship at all.

"Fellow experts! I will be using my magic to create a shroud over everyone, in order to make us less visible in a moment. We will then directly jump down and penetrate right into the castle. It would be best if it is possible to assassinate Lu Huai Ru before the guards find out," Jing Qiu stated.

"Good. Let us all follow what Jing Qiu said," Bai Rong replied.

"Indeed... It is to our fortune that we have a Silver Moon Mage with us." Tang Xiong laughed.

*Qiang.* Instead of replying, Xue Ying started his preparation of fixing the two parts of the Flying Snow God Spear before the battle.

Looking at Xue Ying, Bai Rong scoffed before unsheathing his two-handed great sword.

Everyone was fully prepared, and ready to enter battle at any time.

"*Huu~~~*" The azure-robed Jing Qiu began casting a spell with the staff in her hands, causing a gust of wind to sweep across everyone.

"Let's head down now," she said.

"Let's."

*Hu... Hu... Hu...*

The five experts jumped down simultaneously. With their strength, it was entirely possible to fall 300 meters without being injured. The purpose of the wind cast by Jing Qiu though was solely for the sake of adjusting the landing point and to hide the presence of the experts from any unwanted eyes.

Xue Ying looked towards the ground. Along with the descent, the wind aided in bringing the five experts towards the inner courtyard. The entire inner region of the castle was shaped as if it was a mysterious octagonal creature lying on the ground. At the same time, the gust of wind began sweeping away the dust and leaves in the surroundings, preventing the soldiers of the castle from even

opening their eyes.

*Sou...Sou...Sou...Sou...Sou...*

With the aid of the wind, the five experts landed on the roof of the castle quietly.

“Let’s enter the castle!” Bai Rong wielded his two-handed great sword, ready to take down anything that came his way.

*“Omm—”*

Right at this moment, a sudden piercing brightness shone right on the roof of the castle. Xue Ying and the other four experts had nowhere to hide.

“Assassins!” A cold, piercing voice broke out from within the castle, reverberating throughout the entire inner courtyard. “Right there on the roof! Kill them!”

“Assassins!”

“Over there! Let’s kill them!”

Right on the castle walls that separated the inner courtyard from the outer region, there were many soldiers patrolling. Within moments of being alerted, over two hundred Star Breaking Crossbows were pointed at the five experts. Naturally, with the strength of a Meteor Mage who was an expert in refining plus four other Meteor Knights commanding the soldiers, the security of the entire castle was extremely tight.

“We have been discovered,” Tang Xiong announced.

“*Humph!* So what if we were discovered? No big deal. Just kill all of them!” Bai Rong laughed with condescendence.

“Everyone, our target this time is the Lu Clan. It has nothing to do with you all! But if you decide to go against us, you will die!” Jing Qiu warned the soldiers. That statement was clear and right to the point. Coupled with a clear and beautiful voice, it could hypnotize anyone into becoming subservient to her. However, underneath the surface was a deadly intent. The entire surrounding air became colder and colder, causing frost to appear on the surfaces of the courtyard.

Within the blink of an eye, even the small soil particles on the ground became frozen solid. The entire majestic castle of the Lu Clan was turning into an ice castle. Soldiers all around began shivering from the bite of the icy-cold air.

“Cold...” Some soldiers began falling onto the ground as they lost the energy to overcome the frigid surroundings.

“Retreat from the area touched by my Frost Domain and you may survive. Otherwise, the only path for you will be death,” Jing Qiu warned those mortal, insignificant soldiers with a tiny bit of kindness. After all, she had no grievances with them.

“Hu...”

Xue Ying looked at the frost around him. He felt amazed towards Jing Qiu’s fine control over the element of ice. Even though he knew that she was an expert in the field of ice element, this was clearly beyond his expectations. Being able to extend her frost domain accurately across the entire castle, and to lower the temperature of the surroundings enough to make the soldiers surrender without death, Jing Qiu was clearly an expert in the field of ice element.

Still, even with such a fine control, over time, the frostbite could kill.

“Let’s quickly leave!” Several soldiers who had stronger physique began pulling those who were weaker than them out of the area of effect. Servants within the castle also took the chance to escape from the battle that was about to begin.

Under the power of Jing Qiu’s Frost Domain, those two to three thousand soldiers had no hopes of prevailing. The only choice they had was to escape as far as possible. After all, was there any hope of winning the battle under such conditions that their entire bodies were numbed to the point that they couldn’t even control their limbs?

“Let’s continue.” Staff in hand, Jing Qiu jumped off the roof with the four other experts.

Since they could not assassinate Lu Huai Ru, the next best choice would be to simply kill him openly.

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*“Humph!* A bunch of idiots. What use do they have?” Lu Huai Ru began shaking his head as he looked outside the castle at the soldiers who were trying to escape. “Now the only one I can depend on is myself and the traps that I’ve laid inside the castle. Whoever dares to enter and come after me will surely die a terrible death.” Lu Huai Ru scuttled his way across the corridor, with a single goal in mind – to enter the secret passage within the castle.

Lu Huai Ru was confident.

He was confident that the arrays he set could easily kill three to five Silver Moon Knights. Furthermore, there was still the Demon God’s Emissary living within the castle! All of these factors made him overflow with confidence.

## Book 2: Chapter 16 – The Demonic Water Crystal

The gigantic octagonal inner castle covered an area of up to two miles. Such a big area could only mean that there were countless traps laid within.

“Lu Huai Ru is hiding inside. Thus, the only thing we can do is to kill while we make our way in,” Si Bai Rong said. However, as he looked forward into the dark and creepy hallway leading into the depths of the castle, he became hesitant. “I think that there should be an untold amount of Arrays within. We will need someone strong to lead us in.”

Xue Ying smiled at that.

*‘This Si Bai Rong! On the one hand, he wants prestige ... on the other hand, he is afraid. I have no idea how his power managed to reach the stage of Silver Moon ranker...’*

Tang Xiong and Liang Yong, on the contrary, were both extremely calm and composed. They turned towards Jing Qiu, hoping that she could make a decision.

“If we rush in blindly, we are just courting death.” Jing Qiu’s ever-cold voice calmed the rest of the experts down. “Even though Lu Huai Ru is just a Meteor-ranked Mage, he is still good at refining. It is certain that he has placed countless trap arrays in order to counter us. Even if a Silver Moon ranked Knight dares to rush in blindly, his life will still be endangered. Fellow experts, please give me some time. I will use my magic to try to discover any possible arrays ahead of us.”

Jing Qiu began chanting the incantation for the spell, staff in hand.

Actually, the reason behind why mages chanted out spell incantations was to induce self-hypnosis. After all, some of the most powerful spells in the world demanded too much from a mage and were extremely difficult to cast. These were impossible to make without self-hypnosis through spell incantations.

As for the lower-leveled spells, a mage could just cast those without having to

chant out the spell incantations. Just as with Jing Qiu's Frost Domain, there was totally no pressure on the mage in casting it.

*Hua hua hua ~~~* Right in front of their eyes, an unbelievable amount of ice started coagulating together, forming the shape of what looked like an over 20 meter long gigantic ice-snake. The body of the snake was crystal clear, and its head filled with killing intent, causing Si Bai Rong, Tang Xiong and the rest of the experts to feel some sense of wariness towards it.

"Level 5 spell: Frost Snake." Xue Ying nodded his head imperceptibly. "The spell-born Frost Snake does not have any weaknesses. Never mind ordinary Silver Moon Knights; in terms of strength, it would not lose too badly even against the formidable Legend Knights! However, Jing Qiu's current technique of forming the snake was not quite up to standard. If it would've had ten heads... even Legend-rankers would be threatened by it. However, if we were to compare the Frost Snake with a Legend-ranker who had already reached the state of being 'One with the World' and who had the ability to fully utilise the laws of nature, the first wouldn't have the slightest hope of displaying its strength in front of the latter."

Currently, Jing Qiu was still chanting the incantation for the spell.

As time passed by, another identical gigantic Frost Snake appeared beside the first one.

"My magic power is limited. I will have to conserve the rest for any unforeseen circumstances we might face later," Jing Qiu said. "With these two Frost Snakes leading the way, we should be safe."

"Haha! Just as I've said before, it is really our fortune to have a Silver Moon Mage accompany us!" Tang Xiong bellowed happily. "This Frost Snake does not have any weaknesses, and will easily advance. If it had been us leading the path instead, I'm afraid we would have had to put our lives at risk."

"Jing Qiu is truly formidable," Si Bai Rong began flattering. "Alright. We are leaving now. Jing Qiu, please stay between the four of us. We will protect you. Old Liang and me take will the front while Xue Ying and Tang Xiong take the rear."

Just a moment ago, he had been afraid of leading the way.

However, he had suddenly regained his confidence with two gigantic snakes leading the group.

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The two gigantic Frost Snakes started slithering their way across the spacious hallway. Each time they finished crossing a section, the snakes would whip their tails across the surrounding walls. *Rumble~~~* Vibrations could be heard reverberating throughout the hallway. The force was so strong that the walls of the hallway could be seen crumbling away. Along the path, the several arrays they discovered were immediately destroyed. As for the arrays which escaped their notice, they would only inflict damage on the body of the Frost Snakes. Even though some parts of the snakes' ice bodies were knocked off by the inflicted damage, the cold energy supplied by the magic power within their bodies reformed those parts instantaneously. However, one could notice that after each cycle of reformation the snakes would gradually shrink in size.

Every time they attacked or got hurt, the Frost Snakes would lose their frost energy, up until the very moment when they would be fully annihilated because of their fading energy.

Ignoring that, these two Frost Snakes did not have any weaknesses. They could just charge forward blindly, without fearing that any dangers would befall their bodies.

*'This is frightening.'* While defending the rear, Xue Ying wondered, *'If we were to give any mage enough time to cast their spells, the threat that they pose would be a thousand times bigger than the threat of a knight. Some of the higher-leveled spells cast by a mage could even create disasters.'*

A mage could be likened to a scholar, since they generally studied the laws of nature. If given enough time to devour through the laws of nature, then a mage could even be said to become peerless. Any knight coming their way would only be serving his life on a platter. The longer a mage lived, the more powerful his spells and arrays would become, and the bigger a threat he would be to any opposing parties.

As for knights? They were actually much fiercer than mages.



Knights had an extremely explosive power. The moment they decided to kill, they would charge forward at such speed, that before a person could even finish blinking once, they would be forever lost to the world. With power came speed. With speed came power. For example, Xue Ying could easily cover a distance of a hundred meters in the blink of an eye, and an ordinary warrior would not even be able to see the tiniest bit of his shadow. Such a frightening speed... if he were to decide he wanted to kill a mage, the mage wouldn't have the slightest chance to react. Thus, it could be said that both mages and knights had their own strengths and weaknesses.

*Rumble rumble rumble~~~*

The Frost Snakes had strength comparable to that of Legend rankers, despite the fact that if they were to engage in close combat, they would not be as fearsome as a Knight. However, the task of breaking down the hall was a simple feat for the two Frost Snakes. Many walls had already crumbled apart with the accompaniment of rumbling sounds. The arrays had no time at all to display their fearsome power as they were already erased by the two snakes' slithering advance before even getting the chance to activate.

Even though all the hallway walls were broken into pieces, the castle was still stable, showing how good its foundation really was. After all, the main supports of the castle were still holding up.

"Haha! With Jing Qiu, we can be so much more relaxed! Be they traps or arrays, there is no chance of any of them threatening our lives." Si Bai Rong laughed cheerfully at that.

"Don't be so complacent!" Jing Qiu replied. She was still on alert, looking out for possible danger coming from the path ahead. "Dealing with a formidable Master Refiner, we should expect to find numerous arrays. Even though my two Frost Snakes are currently destroying at least 90 percent of the traps ahead, it is safe to assume that there are several arrays left untouched. We must remain cautious as long as we haven't obtained absolute safety."

"As you said, more than 90 percent of the arrays are destroyed. What is left to threaten our lives? If we were to compare Lu Huai Ru and you, Jing Qiu? Well, I dare say that there is no chance of him overwhelming you. Jing Qiu, you have

been studying in the Eternal Wind Academy, a place full of experts. Having to deal with all of them, how could Lu Huai Ru even come up with something that you have not seen before?” Si Bai Rong said proudly. Still, even though Si Bai Rong seemed confident on the outside, his actions showed otherwise. Following his protector, Liang Yong, who was still on a lookout for possible danger, he never completely let his guard down.

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Hidden within the inner chambers was a large hall.

Lu Huai Ru was sitting high up on the throne, frowning at the current situation. Beside him, there were three other Meteor-ranked Knights prepared to heed his call.

“Damn. Who would have thought that there was actually a Silver Moon Mage?!” Lu Huai Ru grimaced. Before this, he had only seen the frost appearing outside the castle, and judging by the fact that nobody had died from it, he’d thought that the assassins coming for his life should not be a threat. Without even looking at them, he had rushed his way into the inner chambers, and now he was more than regretting it. He didn’t even know who the assassins were or how many had been sent to take his life.

“Cult leader, what should we do?” The three protectors looked towards him.

“What can we even do? With the destructive power of those two Frost Snakes, almost all my arrays have already been destroyed. As for those that are left? With such a pitiful amount, all they can achieve is just making the Frost Snakes lose some of their energy.” Lu Huai Ru shook his head. “It seems that there is only one way out.”

The entirety of his inner chambers was filled with a plethora of arrays designed to kill. Undoubtedly, there were certain places which had quite the killing power focused in one area.

But those two Frost Snakes...

They had led him to make the ultimate choice in order to deal with the situation – to use the most powerful trap he had in his arsenal.

“There is an Absolute-killing array in the seventh hallway!” Lu Huai Ru called

out. “That is actually one of my strongest array formations used for killing. However, with those two snakes leading the way, the array could at most kill off 2-3 Silver Moon Knights. Thus, I would need you three’s help. Right when the assassins enter the formation, I want you to charge forward and finish them off.”

“Yes, as you command.” The three custodian each took out a pendant, before opening it. Within it, there was a single blood-coloured crystal.

With some hesitance, the three knights took the crystals and ate them.

In an instant, their bodies suffered several changes – the skin of the three knights became redder by the seconds, and with a shudder, the Dou Qi within their body began transforming.

This was actually their life-saving treasure – The Demonic Water Crystal. If a Legend ranker were to use it, there would not be too much of an effect. However, if a Meteor Knight or a Silver Moon Knight were to use it, then the effects would be tremendous. Generally, after eating the crystal, a Meteor Knight would temporarily have the strength to rival a Silver Moon Knight. However, once the effects wore off, the user would be fatigued for 2-3 days, or even more.

Still, such a crystal, capable of raising a person’s strength by an entire rank, could be said to be extremely precious. Within the cult of the Demon God in the Azure River County, there was only enough for each person to have a single one of them.

“Don’t be heartbroken. After we get through this ordeal, we will definitely be moving away to another area. Furthermore, I will ask the higher-ups for another crystal for each of you,” Lu Huai Ru said. “Go! Go wait for them at the seventh hallway!”

“Yes.”

The three red-skinned protectors exited the main hall immediately.

As the three of them left, a monster-looking man came walking out of the side doors. His footsteps created slight tremors in the entire hall. Lu Huai Ru stood up immediately. “What happened? Is there trouble brewing?” The monster-looking man asked.

“My Divine Lord, I’m afraid that this place has been exposed.”

“Exposed?” The monster-looking man walked towards the throne and sat down, asking with a frown, “Have they discovered me?”

“If they had discovered you, my Divine Lord, I doubt they would have just sent a few Silver Moon rankers... Instead, they would have dispatched Si Liang Hong, Xiang Pang Yun, and even a few Transcendents over here.”

Ordinary Legend rankers could acquire Bronze orders easily.

For those with power, entering the empire’s list of three thousand names was easy. However, there was a major difference between having their name on the list and not having it on.

As for Si Liang Hong? She had lived for hundreds of years, and was definitely a cold-blooded monster. Xiang Pang Yun though was even more savage than Si Liang Hong. Both of them were currently within the top 500 ranking Legend warriors within the Dragon Mountain Empire. Comparing them with an ordinary Legend ranker would be akin to comparing the heavens and the earth.

“A few Silver Moon rankers?” The monster-looking man scoffed. “Right in front of me, they are just ants. It’s such a pity that you have to leave this area after a few weeks of stay...”

## Book 2: Chapter 17 – Absolute Killing Array!

At the turn of the seventh hallway, there were three guardians waiting with their weapons drawn.

“They’re here.” one of the guardians said in a low voice.

*Rumble~~~*

The sound of explosions could be heard from outside as the ground trembled.

The shortest guardian went to a spying hole to check out the situation ahead. He saw two gigantic frost snakes slithering across, their bodies whipping across the walls of the hall. Sometimes, the walls would crumble. Sometimes, the floors would break apart.

“Those two frost snakes are indeed ruthless. Out of this many arrays, none of them have survived the snakes’ attacks. Fortunately, the impact caused by the snakes on the array formations of the seventh hallway is the weakest,” whispered the shortest guardian. Array formations could be classified into many levels, and not all of them could be easily destroyed by the frost snakes.

“Get ready. We will activate the trap once they enter the seventh hallway,” the tallest guardian said.

“They are coming towards us. Wait for my signal,” the short one replied as he observed Xue Ying and the other experts closely.

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As the five experts followed behind the two snakes, they had yet to find out where Lu Huai Ru was. Due to the octagonal shape of the castle, there were actually eight different Great Halls that they had to clear.

Right at this moment, they were heading towards a turn of one of the Great Halls.

Si Bai Rong and the black-haired Liang Yong were walking in front, with Jing Qiu

and her staff behind them. She had already cast Frost armour on herself as preparation for any unforeseen events.

Xue Ying and Tang Xiong were behind her, respectively on Jing Qiu's left and right sides.

"This inner chamber of the castle is actually this big. Where exactly did that Lu Huai Ru hide himself?" Bai Rong asked impatiently.

"Don't be hasty."

"We've checked every single place in the inner chambers. Up till now, we've checked six of the Great Halls. There are only two Halls left, with this being the seventh. If we still haven't found Lu Huai Ru once the all of the eight Great Halls of the inner chambers have been thoroughly searched through, then the next possible location for him to hide in would be beneath the castle. With the Dragon Mountain flying ship outside, and us inside, there is no way he can escape!"

"En." Bai Rong nodded his head.

*"Rumble~"* Suddenly, a vibration could be felt coming from the turning point into the seventh Great Hall. The ground seemed to be splitting apart, revealing large pits underneath. Within the pits, numerous sharp, upwards-facing spears could be seen! Even worse, the tips of the spears had clearly been treated with poison. Without hesitation, Xue Ying and the rest avoided the pits appearing from the widening gap in the ground. Fortunately, the two frost snakes had destroyed a large part of the ground just before, causing some parts of the array to stop functioning and preventing the ground from opening even further.

Thus, with just a little effort, Xue Ying and the other experts could easily avoid the activated trap.

*"Rumble —"* The walls surrounding the experts suddenly crumbled apart. Numerous stones came tumbling onto the ground, revealing the many mechanical crossbows hidden behind.

The mechanical whirring of turning gears could be heard.

Countless arrows were facing the experts, each one as big as a person's thigh. Looking at the situation, Bai Rong, Tang Xiong, Jing Qiu and the rest grimaced.

Such thick arrows...

“Not good!” Jing Qiu’s face turned pale instantly. Looking at the mechanical crossbows, the mechanical gears controlling them were actually moving slowly, due to the debris from earlier on. The snakes destroyed the walls and the grounds was a good thing, but now, instead of preventing the crossbows from shooting, the debris was actually aiding the crossbows in gathering power. The longer it took, the more forcefully the arrows would be released.

“The four corners! Each person take one!” Both the experienced Tang Xiong and Liang Yong shouted out. They knew that they had entered a life or death situation.

*Peng! Peng! Peng! Peng! Peng!*

The jolting effects brought by the firing crossbows was felt clearly. The arrows were shot from every single direction, from the front, the back and even the sides. With Xue Ying and the others being right in the middle of the hall, the maximum distance between them and the crossbows was a mere few dozen metres. The closest crossbow was only 10 meters away!

*Hu hu hu hu...*

The arrows tore through the wind!

Within moments, hundreds of thick bolts filled the entire hallway!

It was fortunate that these mechanical crossbows were controlled by the arrays and their mechanical gears. Because of that, the amount of arrows that were actually headed for Xue Ying and the five experts was at most ten per person.

“Defend!”

“Everyone defend yourself well!”

Tang Xiong and Liang Yong both shouted out.

“*Peng!*” With a shield and a sword in his hand, the black-haired Liang Yong blocked one of the arrows heading towards him. At the same time as he tilted the shield slightly, so as to reduce the impact. With just one bout, 8 or 9 arrows were averted! However, even though he greatly reduced the impact of the

arrows' strike through his shield, their force was still substantial. Were he not to have his shield to aid his defence, even wearing a suit of armour could not save his life from the force of 2 or 3 thick crossbow arrows.

*"Dang dang dang!"* The hundred and sixty years old Tang Xiong blocked the entire swathe of arrows heading his way only with the help of a short sword. What an experienced old man!

"Damn!" The Silver Moon Knight Si Bai Rong was trying his best with the two-handed Great Sword in his hands in defending against the incoming arrows. He was having a hard time compared to the other two old men.

*Dang dang dang !!!*

Arrows came flying at him one-by-one. Even though as a Silver Moon Knight, Bai Rong could keep up with the speed of the arrows with the help of his good physique, fast reaction time and quick movement. However, he spent a lot of energy defending himself due to the lack of profound understanding in the sword arts.

The ranking of a Knight did not determine how effective one was in battle.

In fact, to become a Silver Moon Knight, one could purely increase the Dou Qi within his body to achieve this level. However, one's skill with the great sword depended on several other factors. Even though Bai Rong spent most of his time training against the experts of his Si Clan, he was still a long way from achieving 'One with the Sword'. At most, his foundation was relatively firm. Him fighting against ordinary Knights would not be a problem. But today? In this life or death situation, with the swift arrows coming his way, he could only depend on his instinct and reflexes.

"No!" Bai Rong's forehead was full of cold sweat. Suddenly, he fumbled.

*"Hu—"* Right at this critical moment, a shield came flying towards his direction, deflecting the thick arrow.

It was Bai Rong's guardian, Liang Yong.

During the entire struggle against the arrows, Liang Yong was actually looking out for Bai Rong. After all, the reason why he partook in this mission was to protect the young master. Yet, the incoming arrows were too fast. With his skills,



he could barely protect himself, how could he even have the strength to protect another person? As a result of lending out a helping hand, he stumbled and lost the momentum in defending against the arrows. The arrows coming right toward his face were not deflected completely. *Peng peng peng!* With the sword within his hand, he barely managed to avert two of the arrows. But the third...?

“Ah!” Liang Yong groaned, as he utilised all his strength in trying to avoid the third arrow.

The thick crossbow arrow tore apart his right arm.

*Hu...*

Not long after, the crossbows finally stopped firing.

From the start, only a few seconds had passed.

“Ai... Facing such a monstrous weapon at close range, this Liang Yong did not even put it in his heart to protect himself. Moreover, he dared to divert his attention towards helping his young master Bai Rong. It was his luck that he did not die from this encounter.” Tang Xiong sighed to himself.

“Old Liang! Old Liang!” Bai Rong ran up to him, carrying his black-haired guardian in his arms. The wound on Liang Yong’s right arm was continuously spewing out blood. Without hesitation, Liang Yong took out a silk cloth from his possessions and tied it against the wound to stop the blood from flowing out.

“I’m alright. It’s just a right arm,” Liang Yong said. His character was not one of loyalty and faithfulness towards the Si Clan. It was just that he had been brought up by the Si Clan, with his own Clan depending on the Si Clan for survival. If Bai Rong was to die during this mission, then without a doubt, there would be dire consequences.

“This Xue Ying is actually quite formidable. I had to put in all my effort in defending against the arrows, yet Xue Ying could easily deflect the all the arrows without much effort.” Tang Xiong glanced towards Xue Ying. Just now, he was actually concentrating on defending himself against the arrows, and thus did not have the chance to see what techniques were utilised by Xue Ying. But looking at his calm and steady bearing...

“Such a pity...”

Xue Ying shook his head. Although he was antagonistic towards Bai Rong, he had no grievances against the black-haired Liang Yong. If given a chance, he would have lent a helping hand, but he was unfortunately situated behind the team, quite a distance away from Liang Yong. Of course, it was not to say that he could not reach Liang Yong in time, it was just that Jing Qiu had a higher priority.

Jing Qiu was situated right in the middle of the group. Furthermore, being a mage, she could not do anything against this encounter with the crossbow arrows.

“Be careful!” Jing Qiu suddenly exclaimed. She was on the lookout for any further danger.

*Sou Sou Sou!*

Three shadows sprang out from behind the crossbows. Looking at their speed, they had the strength of Silver Moon Knights at the very least. Within a blink, they had already covered the distance between them and Xue Ying’s group.

“Look out!”

“Liang Yong!” Tang Xiong shouted out.

“Young master!” Liang Yong shouted out. Using the shield in his hand, he defended himself and Bai Rong against the ambush of two of the guardians. Clearly, based on the previous actions, the guardians knew that the weakest among the experts was ... Bai Rong. And now, with the injuries incurred by the black-haired old man, these two were the easiest to be dealt with.

As for the third guardian, he charged towards mage Jing Qiu.

“Stop!” Tang Xiong ordered. With the short sword, he confronted the third guardian.

Xue Ying, at the back of the group, also brandished his long spear and went charging towards the enemy.

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“Young master, let’s work together.” guardian Liang Yong was ready to withstand the onslaught with the shield held by his only arm.

Bai Rong turned pale instantly. He was using the two-handed Great Sword to

fight back against one of the guardians, but the guardian was extremely fast. With a slight movement, he dodged against the attacks. Comparing techniques, one could easily tell that this guardian had the upper hand. Thus, what Bai Rong did was something nobody would have expected. He abandoned his guardian and stopped caring about what Jing Qiu thought of him. He decided to retreat.

He ran, ran towards the back of the group, hoping that others would shield him from the enemy.

Actually, if Bai Rong had kept his wits, defending against the enemy with Liang Yong, they definitely could have lengthened the battle. By then, Xue Ying would have reached their location and helped resolve the situation.

Yet Bai Rong only cared about his own life. His decision was to retreat! The guardian who was chasing after Bai Rong changed targets, slashing at Liang Yong.

Liang Yong was already having a hard time defending himself against one of the guardians, guardian with only the shield in his hand. The moment he was pincer-attacked by two enemies guardian, he could not hold on any longer.

“*Pu!*” A sabre came flying from his back, slashing through his throat. Widening his eyes, Liang Yong was not resigned to death. Within those eyes was a sliver of hope, a hope that even though he had died in battle the Si Clan would still be able to provide a place for his own grandchildren to live on.

Falling to the floor, the guardian Liang Yong died!

This was the first death in the group of the five experts.

A battle between Silver Moon Knights was indeed extremely fast-paced.

If one were to talk about how fast a sword could be, within a single second, over a hundred slashes would have been dealt by a Silver Moon Knight! As for why this battle ended so quickly, one of the reasons was the fact that Bai Rong actually ran away. With the onslaught of two experienced knights, Liang Yong could only defend himself against one or two moves before succumbing to his death.

*Hu. Hu.*

Two shadows could be seen flying across the space as snow floated along the way.

*Pu! Pu!*

The two guardians who had just killed Liang Yong did not have the chance to react. They were instantly stabbed through their throats by the spears. Their eyes were wide open and filled with astonishment.

“Y... You... You... “Neither of them could believe it. The spear came their way too fast.

With one move, two people died.

The people present were shocked.

Actually, the technique Xue Ying practiced was senior Gu Yuan Han’s Dark Ice Spear Technique. This technique specialised in speed. Back when he was a Meteor Knight, he had already utilised the speed brought by the Dark Ice Spear Technique to kill a rank 5 Shadow Leopard! With just a casual flick, he could bring forward the strength of a Silver Moon Knight. The speed brought forward by Xue Ying could easily be used to kill the two guardians, given his understanding of the profound realm of Spear Techniques, coupled with a Transcendent’s technique.

Other than himself, Xue Ying had never met someone who had attained the realm of Great Spear Mastery. After all, reaching such a stage was no easy feat.

Those who could be as diligent as Xue Ying, spending hours training every day were very few in numbers. Even his father and Zong Ling could not keep up with the routine. Even so, one had to also be astute, not just diligent, in order to achieve great feats. Xue Ying was precisely someone who could think quickly and adjust his training routines based on the Transcendent’s technique. After the numerous trials and errors he underwent, Xue Ying had finally achieved the state of being ‘One with the Spear’, entering the realms of Great Spear Masters.

It was only with the use of the medicinal baths, the demonic training routines, the Transcendent’s technique, a castle full of warriors to spar with and an astute brain that one could reach such an achievement. Xue Ying was exactly the kind person who could achieve it!



## Book 2: Chapter 18 – Escape!

“What! How...How is this possible?” The remaining guardian, who was currently fighting against Tang Xiong, was left aghast.

After killing the protector Liang Yong, the three guardians had complete confidence in dealing with the remaining three Silver Moon Knights and a considerably weaker Si Bai Rong.

However, the moment this black-clothed youngster took out his spear, the situation turned against them.

“Die!” Tang Xiong shouted. Utilizing the moment when the guardian was distracted, the guardian couldn’t hope to match up to the 160 year old Tang Xiong’s attack. The opposing guardian panicked at the wrong moment. *‘Slash~~~’* A red dot appeared right above the guardian’s eyebrows and within moments, he fell, with his eyes wide open in shock.

“Brother Xue Ying, that was an amazing spear technique!” Tang Xiong laughed. “Such clean and crisp movements, it’s been awhile since I last saw something like that.”

Yu Jing Qiu was also a little amazed at Xue Ying’s capabilities.

“It’s a pity that Liang Yong was overwhelmed in such a short amount of time. I wasn’t able to reach him in time.” Xue Ying shook his head.

*“Humph.”*

Si Bai Rong stood behind the group with a gloomy face. His protector was dead and just moments ago, he had touched the veils of death. Yet even after all this, he could not believe that this Xue Ying, who was from the countryside Water Rites Town, could be so strong.

He then walked towards protector Liang Yong to take the armband left from the fight before.

Xue Ying, Jing Qiu and Tang Xiong were all looking at him.

“This old Liang is my protector. I’ll need to bring his belongings back to his family,” Bai Rong said. “As for his body, I’ll leave it here for now until the end of the mission. Afterwards, someone from the Dragon Mountain Manor will collect it.”

“Ai...Who knows if this Bai Rong would even take the items within Liang Yong’s storage treasure back to his family...” Tang Xiong murmured.

He had seen too much, experienced too many things.

The Si Clan was a big clan. Considering its hundred-year-old history, there were definitely many descendants in the family, with many different characters. Concerning Si Bai Rong, despite his innate talent being quite good, nothing good could be said about his character. However, Tang Xiong did not want to get entangled up with such a person. After all, it was said that this type of character was sometimes the hardest to deal with.

“*Ka ka ka.*” Yu Jing Qiu walked ahead. Utilizing her ability to control cold energy, she brought upon Liang Yong’s body, covering it with a layer of ice.

“These three guardians don’t actually have any treasure.” Tang Xiong scavenged their bodies. “This is so weird. From what I know, most Silver Moon Knights would at least have a few treasures. *En.* There weren’t even that many gold notes on them. Young master Bai Rong, do you want them?”

Si Bai Rong glanced over at the notes. He was not thick-skinned enough to want a piece of share from the battle when he had not participated in it. “I haven’t killed any of the guardians.”

“You can split it with Xue Ying.” Jing Qiu added.

“Haha. I will take one part, and you take two.” Tang Xiong split the fifty thousand gold notes with Xue Ying. Xue Ying, too, accepted it without hesitation.

“Let’s go.” Jing Qiu continued.

“Let’s continue.”

From this moment on, Xue Ying was the one leading the group of four, with Tang Xiong and Jing Qiu following behind him. As for the young master Bai Rong,

he was actually right at the back of the group! After facing the battle before, he felt kind of afraid of what to expect after this, even more so considering that his protector wasn't by his side anymore.

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The mission continued peacefully thereafter, with no immensely powerful array formation that could trap the group of four. After searching through the eight Great Halls of the castle, Xue Ying and the others continued on with what they decided earlier on – to scour the basement.

Following the stairs heading downwards, they soon reached a huge gate.

“Fellow experts, please be careful. I can feel some sort of demonic Qi coming from within,” Jing Qiu warned.

“*En.*” Ultimately, the most dangerous factor of this mission was actually the Demon God's Emissary present within the holy grounds of Azure River County.

The gate opened.

Jing Qiu's ice-elemental snakes went through the gates as the vanguard, followed by Xue Ying and the others.

“Such an enormous hall!” All of them were amazed.

The basement beneath the castle actually contained such a big hall. But the most striking part of the hall that captured everyone's attention was the sculpture of a Demonic God. Even though it was just a sculpture, Demonic Qi could be felt from it, causing Xue Ying and the other experts to feel uneasy.

At the end of the Great Hall was actually a throne.

Currently, a monster-looking man was sitting right on it. Beside him, there was another person adorned with respect towards the man. Without a doubt, Xue Ying and the rest could recognize him as the main target of their mission – Lu Huai Ru.

“I didn't expect those three guardians to be this useless. Even with the help of my array formations, they only managed to kill one of you,” Lu Huai Ru said with a smile. “If it was any other day, I'd have tried to utilize the current opportunity to escape! However, my chances of escaping from the surveillance of the Dragon



Mountain Manor are actually quite small. Even so, today is not any other day. There's no need for me to escape at all."

Jing Qiu, Bai Rong and Tang Xiong narrowed their eyes towards the monster-looking man sitting on the throne.

They could feel an intense killing intent coming from this man.

"Who is he?" Xue Ying, too, felt a huge danger coming from this man. *'Isn't the leader of the cult representing the area of Azure River County Lu Huai Ru? Yet now, he is standing by the sides, giving unadorned respect towards the man on the throne. This man with a physique stronger than my uncle Tong, who exactly is he?'*

"A Silver Moon Mage."

The monster-looking man suddenly said, his words echoing with power throughout the hall from. Touching his beard, he stared at Jing Qiu with glimmering eyes. "Such a young and beautiful female Mage... How valuable! Haha... I like this beautiful Mage. The younger they are, the better. It's said that female mages are all extremely intelligent. I could even envision myself savaging such a beauty now... Makes me tingle with excitement."

"You are...!" Tang Xiong frowned as he tried to recall where he had seen this person before.

Right at this moment, a person came to his mind.

A fierce and brutal person who had been missing for over 80 years.

"Run!" Tang Xiong unhesitatingly ran from the scene, turning into a stream of light while continuing to shout out, "Faster! Run for your life!"

"What!?" Bai Rong and Jing Qiu were shocked. Why did Tang Xiong run away when they hadn't even engaged the enemies yet? This action of his made them palpitate with nervousness.

"You wish to escape?"

The deep and powerful voice resounded within the Great Hall. Suddenly, the whole hall fell into darkness, an invisible force enveloping it wholly, as if a huge palm was pressing down on the hall. The escaping Tang Xiong was suppressed by

this invisible force and his speed decreased by a huge margin. Even the air around him and the surrounding space were twisted with distortion.

“One with the World!” Bai Rong was so afraid of what he saw that he almost peed in his pants.

Jing Qiu also panicked seeing their current situation.

The monster-looking man took off a piece of metal from the throne and threw it at them.

*Xiu!*

Just like a stream of light, the metal piece flew at speed akin to lightning. Tang Xiong, who was escaping with his back to the throne, did not see the piece of metal. Even if he had been able to see it, everything happened too fast for him to react. *Pu!* That metal piece entered and penetrated the head of Tang Xiong so quickly that he didn’t even feel anything. Just like that, he died with his eyes wide open, not knowing what hit him.

“Drop.” Standing beside the throne, Lu Huai Ru lightly pressed on a button to activate the traps.

*Hong! Hong! Hong!*

Three huge gates fell right at the entrance, sealing the group within the Great Hall underneath the castle.

“A Legend ranker... Why is there a Legend ranker...?” Bai Rong was in turmoil at the scene he was witnessing. “A branch of the Cult of Demon God within such a small area of the Azure River County, why... why would there be a Legend ranker!?”

“This...” The perpetually calm Jing Qiu began panicking. A Legend ranker? With his control over the forces of nature, there would be nothing she could do against him with her arsenal of powerful magic spells, as they both drew their energy from the surroundings. If utilising the magic within her body, its power would be a thousand times smaller than that of the mana gathered from nature. Casting it towards a Legend ranker? It would merely scratch him.

“This beautiful mage, don’t struggle anymore. Who would have thought that

before I leave this area, I would still be able to savor the taste of a Silver Moon mage, and at such a young age too... *Tut Tut...* I am so lucky! This female mage, just be obedient and stay behind. I'll definitely pamper you." The monster-looking man said. "I believe with your wisdom, you'd know what's best for you."

"As for the other two men over there, they are of no use to me." He said while grabbing another piece of metal.

"Mercy!"

Bai Rong plopped onto the ground, begging for mercy. "Great master, please spare my life. This Jing Qiu mage is just 25 years old. She is one of the most beautiful girls within our Azure River County. I believe that she will definitely listen to you, great master. This small one is Si Bai Rong, from the Si Clan. I beg you to spare my life, great master!"

Bai Rong turned towards Jing Qiu and shouted anxiously, "Jing Qiu, I think you should know what's best for you. Following such a Legend ranker is actually not a bad decision after all. But if we decided to rebel, you will die. We all will die. The only choice now is for us to live on. After all, the moment we die, there will be nothing left for us...!"

"Humph."

Jing Qiu coldly looked towards Bai Rong, before looked up towards the monster-looking man on the throne.

"After accepting the mission from the Dragon Mountain Manor, everyone knows that there is certainly a risk of dying. I've already prepared myself for such a situation. There's no one I could blame after all, other than my luck. But if you were to tell me to follow your instructions, then I can only tell you this. Dream on." Jing Qiu said as she steeled herself for what was going to happen afterwards.

Just that Jing Qiu had a little regret.

Having put in so much efforts in discovering the laws of nature, she knew that her chances of ascending to a Legend mage was quite high. Yet just because of one little wrong decision on her end, her efforts would all be put to waste.

"You disappoint me. However, even after you die, I will still keep your body for my own collection." The monster-looking man said.

Si Bai Rong was kneeling down while Yu Jing Qiu tightly grasped onto her staff and stared at her opponent with a heart full of despair.

“This is totally out of my expectations. Initially, it was just going to be a BlackIron level mission for me to accumulate some experience and merit points. Yet who would have known that there is actually a Legend ranker.”

Xue Ying suddenly said loudly.

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## Book 2: Chapter 19 – Great Battle

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Jing Qiu was drowning in despair. Yet, hearing what Xue Ying said, she was surprised.

Before this, Xue Ying had been hiding his breath. The many years of effort put into understanding the laws of nature had already allowed him to change complexity into simplicity. Thus, nobody had given a second thought to this ordinary black-haired young man. At this moment, however, with everyone being in a life or death situation, he did not hold back his power any longer. Xue Ying's entire demeanor became many times more frightening than before, as sharp as a blade and ready to unleash his power unto the enemy at a moment's notice.

This normally hidden sharpness automatically made others feel jittery when released.

"This Xue Ying actually dared to say such words. Unless... has he fought against a Legend ranker before?" Jing Qiu could not believe this. "I've heard that he is only 22 years old, even younger than me by 3 years! How could he possibly have fought against a Legend ranker? Furthermore, this Xue Ying doesn't give off the feeling that he would have enough power to shake heaven and earth."

The atmosphere within the Great Hall changed instantly.

The unseen force was still being pressed onto the group of experts, proving the monster-looking man's understanding of the laws of nature. From what Jing Qiu could see, if Xue Ying was also a Legend ranked Knight, then he ought to have the capability to overcome this unseen force and fight back against that monster-looking man.

"This Xue Ying must have gone crazy." Bai Rong was completely submerged in a sea of despair when he looked towards Xue Ying and saw an unbelievable. "He even dares to challenge a Legend ranker. Could he be one himself? Nah... I think

he is just trying to comfort his ego before he dies. But this would make his death even more miserable...”

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The monster-looking man observed Xue Ying’s actions, laughing out loud, “So interesting... This brat actually wants to die this badly—”

“Stop uttering nonsense!” Xue Ying was blazing with energy. “Come! Let’s see how strong you are. If you are weaker than me, then just die!”

“A person more arrogant than me?”

The monster-looking man gave a cold look at him.

*Hong~~~*

The unseen force immediately pressed down on Xue Ying just as it had pressed down on Tang Xiong moments ago.

“Just this minuscule amount of force?” Xue Ying chuckled. Ultimately, there was a limit to utilising the forces of nature in suppressing the opponent. A Meteor Knight would find this amount unbearable. Using it against a Silver Moon Knight, his strength would decrease tremendously. When using it against a peak Legend ranker like Xue Ying, the effects of suppressing would be dramatically reduced. By now, it was merely a five thousand or so newtons of force.

One standing beneath the throne, the other sitting on top of it. The collision between their intents was vicious.

“Let me see just how long you can last.” That monster-looking man took out a black-coloured curved dart. This was actually his primary weapon used in battle! Before, he had used a mere metal piece from before to deal with Tang Xiong only because there was such the large difference in strength and there had been no need to bring out his primary weapon.

*“Hu.”*

He swung his arm, fiercely throwing out the curved dart towards Xue Ying.

*Xiu Xiu Xiu!!!*

Within his hands, many more curved darts appeared, and he instantly threw them towards his target.

The curved darts were extremely fast in speed, breaking through the sound barrier. Furthermore, given their curved shape, it was hard to identify which direction the darts were coming from once they had been launched.

“Flying darts? You should also taste a few of my moves!” Xue Ying was filled with aggressiveness. This was his first time fighting against a Legend ranker. Taking out a short spear with his right hand, he threw it explosively towards the monster-looking man.

*Hong!*

The the short spear was quite heavy. Feeling the way it tore through the air, the monster-looking man could sense the terror of the powerful spear. He turned pale instantly. The spear flying towards him was so fast that he could not take out his other weapon in time to block it. With a turn of his body, he dodged it.

“*Peng!*” The short spear hit the throne directly, causing the metal-cast throne to break apart immediately. Without stopping, the spear continued to penetrate the wall behind the throne.

Similarly, Xue Ying was dodging those weirdly-shaped curved darts. Occasionally, he would be unable to dodge, so he would block the darts with his Flying Snow God Spear. In the end, defending against these darts was too easy with him being a Great Spear Master.

*Hong! Hong! Hong!*

Xue Ying took out even more short spears with his right hand. After all, within his own storage treasure there were numerous amounts of spears waiting to be used! One by one, he threw them full-force towards the monster-looking man. The spears tore through the air with such a force that even the suppression force based on the man’s understanding of the laws of nature were completely useless.

One short spear flew past the side of the monster-looking man. *Hong!* It penetrated into the walls.

Similarly, Xue Ying was dodging those strange black-coloured curved darts, leaving them to be entrenched into the walls around him.

“This... This...:” Bai Rong was shocked.

“Are you a Legend ranker?” Jing Qiu, too, felt the oppressiveness of Xue Ying’s performance.

Currently, these two big powers were merely throwing out their hidden weapons, but everyone could feel the frighteningly oppressive atmosphere they created. The monster-looking man’s evasive manoeuvres were so fast that he became a blur, making it difficult for one to see him clearly.

As for Xue Ying, although his range of movement was small, he also became a blurred image.

These were simply just dodging motions, and yet they could not see them clearly any longer!

As for the hidden weapons?

No matter whether it was the frightening short-spears, or those strange-looking, fearsome curved darts, there was no way the others could even dodge a single one of those.

“How... How could he be so strong?” Lu Huai Ru was aghast. He had already hidden himself behind one of the sculptures within the Great Hall. After all, when two Legend rankers battled, the surroundings would be affected as well. With him being a Meteor rank mage? He certainly did not want to become a collateral victim.

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As the monster-looking man continued dodging, he suddenly took out a pair of axes.

The pair of axes could be considered to be one of the most savage weapons. With the huge surface of the axe itself, it could even act as a small shield. With it in his hands, he parried each of the short spears flying towards him with a loud, resounding *Bang!*

“Who would have thought that after escaping from the Infernal World back to



the mortal world, I would meet such a powerful junior. And furthermore, this junior is a genius with such innate talent that he could attain the strength of a Legend ranker at such a young age!” The monster-looking man grinned viciously. “But killing this type of talented juniors is precisely one of my favourite hobbies! Come! Show me how strong you are!”

“Watch my Spear!” Xue Ying knew that his short spears did not have enough penetrative power to kill his opponent, so he charged towards the monster-looking man with his spear.

*Sou!*

Like a flying arrow, Xue Ying covered the distance of a hundred metres in the blink of an eye. He held his spear with both his hands, and once it reached the highest point, Xue Ying put the entirety of his strength into smashing down the spear. *Hong!* The power instilled into the spear was focused in its tip, as ferocious as ever.

“Let’s see just how strong you are!” The monster-looking man laughed savagely. He held his two axes by his side, ready to defend against the incoming attack.

*Hong!*

The long spear struck the two axes.

The monster-looking man instantly turned pale. He was initially very confident in defending against this attack and didn’t bother to put in all his strength, so now he was at a disadvantage. Without caring about his reputation, he immediately retreated, trying to mitigate the force of the spear. *Dong Dong Dong!* Every single step he took left deep footprints behind by him, cracking the ground underneath. It was only after retreating a dozen steps that he could alleviate the force of the spear.

“Die.”

After hacking, Xue Ying instantly charged forward, this time, stabbing his spear with the momentum he had built upon previously.

Just like lightning, the long spear stabbed directly towards the monster-looking man’s face.

“Scatter.” He changed his mind and gave up on attempting to suppress Xue Ying through his control over the forces of nature. The change had an instant effect. Suddenly, Xue Ying felt so much lighter. Most people’s bodies would require some time to react and acclimatise to the change, but for Xue Ying’s thoroughly conditioned body, the contrast didn’t have much of an effect.

Being a Great Spear Master and having achieved the realm Power Perfectly as One, Xue Ying was definitely not someone who could be messed with easily.

“Damn. Power Perfectly as One? He is so young, and yet his spear techniques are so frightening.” The monster-looking man realised that even releasing the force suppression hadn’t affected Xue Ying by much, which clearly implied that his opponent was definitely a Great Spear Master. One must know that even though a person managed to attain the Legend rank, being able to become a Great Master in certain battle techniques was not an easy feat. After all, there were those who could become ‘One with the World’ just by smithing, while some could attain that state just by drawing. Being ‘One with the World’ purely represented a state of the mind.

This did not mean that he would be a Great Master in battle techniques!

To become a Great Master, one would have to spend an enormous amount of time and effort on rigorous training.

“<Blood Axe Reincarnation>” The monster-looking man finally decided to treat Xue Ying as a foe.

*“Xiu.”*

The long spear came, piercing the space right next to him as he dodged the attack. Although it didn’t pierce through anything, the spear’s piercing power was transmitted through the air, drilling a deep hole in the distant wall.

“Die.” Having dodged the strike, the monster-looking man immediately made the most of this opportunity, and swung his pair of axes towards Xue Ying. Once his Blood Axe Reincarnation technique was launched, it would attack the enemy successively without the chance of interruption. Should the enemy lose their concentration for even a second, it would mark the end of his life.

“Open for me!” Xue Ying’s spear that had stabbed the the empty space a

moment before was suddenly brought to a swing with the rotation power of his powerful waist muscles.

He swept with his spear.

With the power of his spear, he annihilate a thousand man army!

So what if it was a dual axe technique? Xue Ying would just use his spear to fight back against it.

*“Peng!”*

The long spear directly met with the axe’s blade, making it resound with a terrifying echo. An unseen pressure was released in every single direction, causing Bai Rong to be so afraid that he used his Qi to protect himself from the force. As for Jing Qiu, her expression was still as cold as always. *Hong~~~* Under the pressure, Bai Rong staggered backwards one step, while Jing Qiu used her frost armor to dissipate the impact.

The Great Hall was in chaos. It was as if a hurricane had just passed through, causing the surface of the stones to be smashed into pieces.

The monster-looking man was forced to retreat all the way until his back was against the wall.

Xue Ying also, staggered backwards one a single step from the clash.

The two opponents were brimming with killing intent. No one was ready to give in to the other.

“Hahaha...” The monster-looking man suddenly laughed. His voice was deep and vigorous, sweeping across the Great Hall like a tsunami, and causing Jing Qiu, Bai Rong and Lu Huai Ru to instinctively cover their ears.

## Book 2: Chapter 20 – Forbidden Technique!

Xue Ying's expression changed a little. Even though he was currently at an advantage, the monster-looking man was still extremely confident. Something was wrong...

"This young Great Spear Master! Your strength has already reached a boundary higher than I have. Killing you is definitely not easy!" The monster-looking man grinned.

The spectators were all extremely shocked at what was happening.

From the skirmish before, they could see that Xue Ying was actually at an advantage!

Actually, what happened could be easily explained. Xue Ying having his understanding of being 'One with the World,' and his opponent having his control of the Laws of Nature, meant that they ended up being more or less equally matched. However, what had helped Xue Ying overcome this balance in power was his Transcendent Dark Ice Spear Technique, and the weapon in his hands – the Flying Snow God Spear. These, coupled with him being a Great Spear master of the Power Perfectly as One realm, meant that Xue Ying could definitely triumph over his opponent.

As for the monster-looking man, he certainly had many strengths as well, though none of them had reached the Power Perfectly as One realm. It was precisely because of this that he was unable to trample all over Xue Ying.

"Whatever other techniques you still have, come! Display all of them before me!" Xue Ying coldly shouted. He was still feeling that his opponent was acting strange.

"Hahaha! Having just escaped the Infernal World recently, I've only recovered half of my strength at most! Yet for you... you are definitely worthy of me utilising one of the Forbidden techniques created by the Great Devil." Right at

the moment he finished saying that, his body suddenly shrunk in size! From the height of 2.45 meters before, he turned into a man of about 1.8 meters in height.

The previously thick waist and huge arms were also shrinking continuously.

All the blood, muscles and bones had actually turned into a frightening, strange-looking black Qi. This black Qi could be seen surrounding his entire body.

“This... How could this be possible?” Bai Rong stared at the weird scene.

“The mighty Demon God Forbidden Technique.” Lu Huai Ru’s eyes were shining in reverence.

“Formidable. No doubt he is a Demonic Emissary. Having such a deep understanding of flesh sanctification has allowed him to triumph over many mages in the world.” Jing Qiu was amazed. Frequently, mages would try to understand the laws governing the fleshy body and the soul, and some even tried to create a Frankenstein. An example would be Si Clan’s Si Liang Hong who transformed his own fleshy body into a Demonic one, increasing his lifespan tremendously.

“*Kakaka...*” The Demonic Emissary slightly stretched his neck, and produced a terrifying sound. With the black Qi surrounding him, he looked like an actual Demon.

“This is what I call strength.” The Demonic Emissary looked towards Xue Ying. “If it’s not because of this strength that I seek, I would never want to strive towards becoming a Demon God! Young spear master, I shall let you have a taste of true strength.”

“Interesting.”

Xue Ying stared at his opponent’s black Qi, thoroughly observing it. “So much blood, flesh and bone turning into Qi instantaneously... No doubt, this is the work of some Great Demon’s Forbidden technique. If I’m not wrong, this should be your genuine appearance.”

“That’s right. In order to utilise this forbidden technique, there’s a requirement for me to eat as much as possible. The more I eat, the bigger I become, and the more strength I can produce from the gained energy.

Otherwise, how could any ordinary human become so strong?” the Demonic Emissary replied casually, as if there was no harm in telling others.

Xue Ying nodded.

He had felt that something was amiss from the first time he had seen the monster-looking man. After all, nobody would be able to grow to a height of 2.45-meters, with their body size being as thick as a tank, through natural means. Usually, those who could reach such heights were not as big as the monster-looking man’s previous form. He hadn’t even seen a Snowstrider Horse as tall as this man in all of the Azure River County.

“Is this the end?” Jing Qiu was feeling worried.

“Lunatics... These two are definitely some horrifying lunatics,” Bai Rong concluded.

“My Divine Lord will definitely win this battle.” Lu Huai Ru was becoming more and more confident with the current change in situation.

The black Qi surrounding the body of the Demonic Emissary was radiating a horrifying pressure.

“Good. Very good.” Xue Ying suddenly opened his mouth and said, “I thought your strength was somewhat weak as a Legend ranker, being entirely suppressed by me. What challenge was there in fighting against you? Now this is what I call a battle! I, Dong Bo Xue Ying, will have my very first exhilarating battle against a Legend ranker. Don’t let me down! If I kill you too early, it won’t be fun at all!”

“I will make you change your thoughts shortly.” the Demonic Emissary coldly snorted. “Die for me.” Instantaneously, he charged towards Xue Ying, his speed noticeably much faster than before. At the same time, he was using his understanding of the laws of nature to suppress Xue Ying. Even though it did not have much of an effect on a Great Spear Master, why not use it to reduce some of the opponent’s strength?”

“Is that so?” Xue Ying reacted, charging towards his opponent as well. With his strength, he directly struck at the Demonic Emissary with his spear.

“Hu.” The Demonic Emissary strangely halted his charge, moving one step backwards. *Peng!* Xue Ying’s long spear hit the floor in front of him, breaking the

entire floor of the Great Hall.

Debris from the spear's damage flew all over the place, and when some pieces of rocks were about to hit the Demonic Emissary, they bounced back on the black Qi surrounding him.

He sneered. This time, he was finally utilising his real strength, which meant that his power and speed had increased tremendously. Now, even he wasn't relying on his two axes, he could still easily dodge Xue Ying's attack. *Hu.*

After hitting the ground, the spear abruptly borrowed on the rebounding force and came stabbing towards the Demonic Emissary at an even faster speed.

"So fast?!" The Demonic Emissary was greatly shocked. Xue Ying's skill in rapidly chaining techniques with his spear was too effective! He could utilise every single thread of rebound energy from its surroundings and opponent, absorbing everything and then releasing it at with a force multiple times the initial strength.

*Dang!* The Demonic Emissary took out a pair of axes straight away, in order to block the strike.

Spear-head and axe-face met head-to-head.

Xue Ying immediately twisted away. With the spear in his hands, he continued stabbing towards the Demonic Emissary. It was so fast that only shadows of his moves could be seen.

Drifting Snow of Dark Ice Spear Technique!

Many snowflakes were seen floating, invisible spear-qi hiding within.

"Such a fast spear technique!" The Demonic Emissary parried the attacks with his two axes.

"Faster, faster, faster!" There was some kind of scary intent within Xue Ying's eyes. His spear was flashing at such a rapid pace that the shadows formed were overwhelming his opponent completely. Within just a single second, he stabbed right at his opponent's head, throat, right and left legs, wrists... every single part of his body. The Demonic Emissary could only defend himself from the rapid attacks.

“Too fast! This Xue Ying is seriously moving too fast! I can not even see the shadows of his spear clearly. Is this his true strength? With just one move, he could simply kill me if i didn’t parry!” Si Bai Rong was shocked. Yu Jing Qiu was hyperventilating. She thought that having the status of a Silver Moon mage at such a young age meant that she was on the top of the world. Yet today, she was seeing a peak-Legend rank battle for the first time.

In such circumstances, how much could a Silver Moon mage mean? Even if a Legend ranked mage was given enough time to prepare one’s spells, if there was a sudden ambush, one would die before even blinking.

“So fast.” Everyone witnessing the scene had the same impression of Xue Ying’s spear technique.

Could a spear move this fast?

Definitely. That was precisely what Xue Ying had been learning so far – a speed-oriented technique.

With the strength of a peak-Legend ranker, a divine weapon like his Flying Snow God Spear, plus having achieved the Great Spear Mastery and the Dark Ice Spear Technique, all these were amassed by a single person. This situation was an occasion to see how fast he become become.

“Ah ah ah! Damn this! Get away from me!” The Demonic Emissary, his entire strength employed in defending against Xue Ying’s attacks, decided to utilise his agility technique, and at the same time use his entire explosive strength to hack at Xue Ying with his two axes.

*“Peng!”*

Spear tip and axe-blade met once again.

Xue Ying’s Flying Snow God Spear was being bent by the axe, but due to the suppleness in its body, it could withstand such a clash of force. Without wasting any of the energy, Xue Ying utilised the force contained in his bent spear against the Demonic Emissary, and whipped it out!

“Die for me! Die, die, die for me!” The Demonic Emissary was now crazily attacking Xue Ying with his dual axes. He was using up the energy stored in his body, which caused him to become smaller in size, and at the same time his two



axes acted as shields that protected him on each side. Thus, it was hard for Xue Ying to penetrate through his defence.

*Peng, peng, peng ...*

Every time they exchanged a move, Xue Ying would be forced to change his tactics.

Even if he was being forced to retreat, he would simply twist his body in order to borrow energy from the incoming force, as a sort of reflector.

Even though he was being continuously suppressed ... Xue Ying still gave his best to attack relentlessly.

“Blood Axe – The Destroyer!” The Demonic Emissary screamed out in anger. The black Qi that was previously surrounding his body went onto the two axes.

“Not good!” Xue Ying’s expression changed once he saw that. Even before touching the face of the axe, the moment his spear reached the black Qi, he could feel the slippery toughness of the Qi. What was worse, the entire surface area of the blood axe had now become even greater, and its prowess had increased dramatically.

*Hu*

With a sweep, the black Qi’s area of effect became even greater.

*Peng!*

Xue Ying was startled by that hit, so much so that he had to retreat a few steps.

“Die!” The Demonic Emissary suddenly charged towards him. His speed was much faster than Xue Ying’s now. Coupled with his even more powerful weapon, he swung right towards his opponent.

Xue Ying did not dare to parry against it. He could only hurry to dodge that attack.

*Hong!!!* Under the power of the axe, the ground split up with a crack, creating a gap of at least 20-30 meters.

“Hack, hack hack!” The Demonic Emissary was entirely focused on annihilating

his opponent. Ultimately, the Forbidden Technique he used had a limited time. Currently, he was fully utilising the black Qi by imbuing it into his weapon. However, even though he had become more powerful, the consumption rate of his Qi was without a doubt greater as well. Thus, he had to kill Xue Ying as soon as possible.

*Dang, dang, dang!* Xue Ying's agility movement was not as good as his opponent's. He was barely defending himself with his spear against the Demonic Emissary. It was a fact that his opponent was physically stronger than him, even more so after using a Forbidden Technique.

*Peng*

With another step, Xue Ying's back hit against the wall, causing a crack to spread across it.

With the next attack, he swiftly dodged to the sides.

"He shouldn't die... right?" Jing Qiu's heart was beating very fast. Bai Rong was looking very anxious as well.

"My Divine Lord is definitely going to win this battle." Lu Huai Ru was hiding in a corner, far away from the rest. Due to the fact that previously, he had trapped everyone within the Great Hall by enclosing it with the three huge gates, he knew that if his divine lord was to die, then he would die as well.

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Move by move, Xue Ying was having a harder and harder time dodging the attacks.

*Hu.* Xue Ying threw in a sudden unexpected roll before dodging yet another dangerous attack.

"The difference in strength between us is too huge! If it wasn't for me dodging the attacks, I'd have died many times over. Guess the only way ahead is for me to use my primordial bloodline." Xue Ying suddenly retreated and jumped into the air. Before he had even reached the highest point, some blood-red Qi had already appeared over his body. With the appearance of his primordial bloodline, the killing intent in his eyes became even more biting-cold...



## Book 2: Chapter 21 – A Part of Life and Death

“Ha ha ha, die for me!” Having the upper hand, The Demon Emissary didn’t give Xue Ying any chance to react. He quickly followed up with a chop, rushing forward with the twin axes in his hands.

Xue Ying twisted his body in the air, his spear thrusting out like a viper!

Xiu!

Xue Ying single-handedly thrust his spear mid-air. Due to its speed and length, the spear quickly arrived in front of the Demon Emissary.

“So ruthless, so fast!” The Demon Emissary was startled. He had initially cornered Xue Ying, but now he was faced with a life threatening spear attack! “How is his spear technique so fast? It wasn’t this fast a moment before!”

His pair of Blood Axes instinctively folded up, completely sealing the spear’s attack options, just like a two-hinged door.

*“Peng”*

The spear tip and axe met head to head. Although this kind of one-handed throw focused on a quick and sudden attack, and its power was far less than a stab, sweep or strike, the Demon Emissary still felt his axe shaking.

“You deserved to die.” Xue Ying landed immediately, then rushed again towards the Demon Emissary. Snowflakes fluttered, Xue Ying’s spear became a mirage and started to attacked.

*Clang, clang, clang...*

In a moment, the spear’s after images appeared everywhere, with a much faster speed than before.

The Demon Emissary was stunned. He panicked and instinctively defended, not daring to strike back, because this time Xue Ying’s spear attack was too fast. It

made the Demon Emissary feel if he tried attacking, then he wouldn't be able to defend against the spear. "How could the speed of his spear attack increase this much? Did he hide his full power before? Damn! Such a young brat, how could he be this strong?"

*Peng*

A moment later, the spear thrust hundreds of times towards the Demon Emissary, whirling furiously on its way.

With his pair of Blood Axes, the Demon Emissary took a defence stance. With a *peng* sound, the Demon Emissary felt a violent power passed through the Blood Axe. He automatically stumbled back.

*Peng peng peng.*

Xue Ying furiously thrust, stabbed and swept with his spear.

Xue Ying and his weapon merged together like a dragon, again and again, attacking frantically with a fascinating speed.

The Demon Emissary constantly retreated. His movements were partially distorted, cold sweat flowing on his forehead.

*Hu!*

The sound of air being ripped apart rang aloud. The spear-head instantly broke in through the gap where the two Blood Axes crossed.

*Puchi!*

The Demon Emissary stared wide eyed, the Blood Axes in his hands fell down with a *clang* sound, resounding throughout the Great Hall.

.....

*Hu.* Xue Ying retracted his spear. There was a big bloody hole in Demon Emissary's throat. Blood gushed out while the Demon Emissary tried to cover the hole while he kept on staring. He unwillingly stared at Black-clothed youngster with a fierce spirit in front of him. As a person, he had come from a big clan's protector family, step by step climbing up, infamous for his viciousness, and honored as the Blood Axe Legend Knight.....

He had done anything for strength.

He had slaughtered a big clan's young master and his troops for a top grade Dou Qi technique. He had been able to get ahold of the complete Dou Qi technique after a few rounds of torture and interrogation.

He had annihilated an innocent clan for a godly weapon, the Blood Axe.

After being banished to the Infernal World, he had looked for a Demon God to help him escape from the Infernal World. The other party agreed to help him, and even gifted him a forbidden technique. He eventually gritted his teeth and chose to abandon the Xia Clan, relying on the Demon God and becoming a Demon God Emissary.

He managed to escaped to the Mortal World with great difficulty. He had barely recovered half of his strength, when he suddenly died in the hands of a young and fameless Great Spear Master.

"You... you..." the Demon God's Emissary stared at Xue Ying, when suddenly he saw a faint blood colored Qi flowing around Xue Ying.

"Pri... primor..." his eyes were wide open, but they had already dulled out, blood gushing out when he tried to speak. He stared at Xue Ying, "Remember... my... name... Xue..."

The Demon God Emissary's body twitched for a moment, and then with a *pu* sound, he fell to his knees, his body powerlessly falling to the ground. Fresh blood slowly began spreading from his body, drenching the ground.

Just like that, an ambitious and ruthless person in the eyes of mortals, the Blood Axe Knight, 'Qiu Fan', had met his demise.

The other people in the hall didn't know this Demon God Emissary's name. Even Lu Huai Ru, the protector of the holy ground didn't know his origin. After he had escaped from the Infernal World, the Xia Clan still wanted to kill him, so he hadn't dared to leak any information related to his identity.

The only one who recognized him just had been Tang Xiong, who had lived for more than 160 years. Unfortunately, Tang Xiong was now already dead.

As for Xue Ying, Jing Qiu and Si Bai Rong, they had no idea, since he was an

expert from olden times.

“You’re called Xue?” Xue Ying hadn’t heard it clearly. He slightly shook his head while looking at the Demon God Emissary’s corpse, “No matter who you are, you are the first Legend ranker I’ve fought with. I will surely remember you.”

While speaking, Xue Ying also took off two magical storage rings from the Demon God Emissary and bound them with his qi.

“So spacious!”

Xue Ying was surprised.

These two rings’ storage space was really spacious. One of them was three meters in width, length and height, and the other one also had a similar capacity. This magical storage item’s capacity could be considered huge. Previously, Xue Ying had always carried his weapon box on his back because he had no magical storage item big enough to store it in his possessions. Moreover, it also took time to assemble and disassemble the spear, which could be detrimental at a crucial moment.

“Now there’s no need to disassemble it, I can conveniently use it at anytime. I can also store several short spears.” He was very pleased, so he smiled slightly. Xue Ying also checked the two storage rings’ contents.

Gold notes, darts, shield, axe, some bottles, food, alcohol, ... ..

A lot of food filled the storage space, just like a small warehouse.

.....

The hall was quiet.

Jing Qiu and Si Bai Rong, holding their breath while looking at the scene from behind pillars in the corner of the hall. Countless snowflakes were fluttering around the vile Demon God Emissary who was now impaled with a spear, right through his throat. Xue Ying went to his side and pulled out his spear.

“Dong Bo Xue Ying won?” Si Bai Rong held his breath. Actually, after the Demon God Emissary had cast the forbidden technique and after Xue Ying’s Primordial Bloodline had activated, Jing Qiu and Si Bai Rong couldn’t follow their battle anymore.

It was simply too fast!

For Legend rankers, people with power levels beneath them were no different from insects.

Only when one reaches the Legend rank can one embark on their own path. There was even some who stood at the peak of Legend rank and yet was not inferior to a Transcendent.

“So powerful. This Dong Bo Xue Ying is this powerful and he’s just 22 years old?” Jing Qiu felt shocked. She had met many young talents at the Eternal Wind Academy. She herself was also praised as a peerless talent, but she now discovered... that this Dong Bo Xue Ying was the greatest genius she had ever come across. An incredible 22 year old Legend Ranker.

And just now, he had killed another powerful Legend ranker.

Jing Qiu started to admire Xue Ying, while also feeling grateful to him, because it could be said that she had been saved by Xue Ying.

.....

“Demon God Emissary, the great Demon God Emissary lost? He died?” Lu Huai Ru, who was hiding in the distance, was completely stunned. He looked at the distant corpse of the Demon God Emissary, fresh blood still flowing. His heart turned cold.

The three huge gates of the Great Hall had enclosed them. The Great Hall was completely sealed in order to prevent intruders from escaping.

It would take a long time to open the gates. These powerful assassins sent by the Dragon Mountain Manor, especially that Dong Bo Xue Ying, could kill him instantly.

“I’m finished...”

Lu Huai Ru had no intention to beg for mercy.

He knew that, with his identity of a demon cult leader within the holy grounds of Azure River County, no one would dare to let him go.

“Damn it! Damn the wretched Dragon Mountain Manor!” He bitterly glanced at the three persons before him. A strange disk appeared in his hand, and he



suddenly started laughing maniacally. His laugh echoed inside the Great Hall, “Ha Ha Ha... Let’s die together! Oh, Great Demon God, here I come!”

At the same time, he suddenly rotated the disk in his hand.

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## Book 2: Chapter 22 – Are you okay?

Someone who had become a Demon Cult Leader was definitely a crazy believer!

Moreover, the devils and demons had found ways to infiltrate the Xia Clan since long ago, and hadn't been completely eradicated yet, even up to this point. They also had many powerful skills like Devil God's oath, space-time contract and all sorts of other methods. All these could be used to completely control the core elite believers! To be completely submissive both in life and death, the soul would reside in the Devil God's place. Living or dead, they would forever serve the Devil God.

"Not good!" Xue Ying's face changed when he looked in the distance at Lu Huai Ru, whose face portrayed hysterical insanity.

*Boom!!!*

The great hall floor suddenly surged upwards. Immediately afterwards, the floor completely exploded. The great hall's pillars also collapsed and exploded one by one.

Jing Qiu and Si Bai Rong, who were hiding in the corner, also became pale.

*Ning, ning, ning.*

It was too late for Jing Qiu to cast a powerful magic spell. She could only cast some weak spells for protection. The frost armor she cast over her body was already the best spell she had at the moment, but it only could defend against a Silver Moon knight's attack power for a while. Jing Qiu also cast an angled frost wall in front of her.

She clearly want to reduce the impact as much as possible with the angled frost wall, but at the moment, the whole great hall was exploding. The scale of which made Jing Qiu terrified, could her magic resist the impact?

"No, I don't want to die, I don't want to die..." Si Bai Rong's eyes were filled

with horror. He immediately crouched down, hiding behind the angled frost wall. He also saw Jing Qiu, who was completely enveloped by the frost armor. His eyes flashed with coldness, instantly grabbing Jing Qiu's arm and pulling her to stand in front of him.

A Silver Moon Mage's defense could also deflect a lot of an attack's force.

"Si Bai Rong!" Jing Qiu's eyes were filled with shock and anger.

"Jing Qiu, just sacrifice yourself for me. I can take care of your Yu Clan in exchange." Si Bai Rong fully hid behind Jing Qiu's body, making her, his shield. The frost armor had a damage reduction effect. Otherwise, the vibrations caused by a knight's attack could vibrate a mage to death. It was due to this effect of the frost armor that Si Bai Rong considered Jing Qiu as the best shield.

With Jing Qiu in front as his cover, his chances of survival increased significantly. As for whether Jing Qiu lived or died? He didn't care.

Although he had always been wooing Jing Qiu, this was because of Jing Qiu's strength and appearance. Faced with a life or death situation, he undoubtedly valued his own little life more than hers. He still hadn't lived long enough.

"Damn, wretched Si Bai Rong!!!" Jing Qiu was shocked and furious. She had initially crouched at the bottom of the angled frost wall, with her hands positioned in front of her. However, because she was grabbed by Si Bai Rong, it had become difficult to protect herself, so the possibility of her dying had now increased significantly.

She was angry.

However, she was unable to break free, a Silver Moon knight's strength was too much for her.

She hadn't been killed by the fearful Demon God Emissary, but in the end she would die at the hands of Si Bai Rong... it was so unfair.

.....

"Not good."

The moment he felt the floor starting to explode, Xue Ying immediately reacted. A black shield appeared in his left hand. This shield came from the

Demon God Emissary's magical storage rings.

A spear in his right hand and a shield in his left hand.

*Sou!*

Lightning fast, Xue Ying charged into the distance. At this time, he had completely merged with his Primordial Bloodline. A faint blood-red aura circled around his body. His speed soaring frighteningly fast, he fluttered around the room. Most of the floor had already exploded, many stone floor pieces, big and small, flew apart at an astonishing speed.

*Clang, clang, clang*, the shield in his left hand continuously blocked the stones, while the Flying Snow God Spear whipped some of the bigger stones away, crashing them into the walls or into some pillars, and sending them as far away as possible.

In the middle of the explosion....

Xue Ying instantly rushed for more than 100 meters towards Jing Qiu and Si Bai Rong, who were currently hiding behind the angled frost wall. Although he had a shield in one hand and the Flying Snow God Spear in the other hand, some of the debris would still hit his body. The explosion residue thrown around were numerous and they were coming from every direction, while all this time he only used his physical power so he could move faster.

With his Legend ranker power, Power Bloodline might and protective dou qi, this kind of explosion could barely hurt him. Most of the stones burst apart from his protective dou qi, only a small number of stones passing through and puncturing holes in his clothes. Even so, Xue Ying's body was stronger and tougher.

His body easily resisted the impact from the explosion.

"This Si Bai Rong!" Xue Ying rushed over to them. When he saw that Si Bai Rong had used Jing Qiu as a shield, a cold glint flashed in his eyes. "Really shameless!"

"Get lost!"

Xue Ying grabbed Jing Qiu with one hand, while simultaneously kicking Si Bai

Rong's body. Si Bai Rong immediately turned pale.

*Peng!*

How much force did Xue Ying's kick have? Si Bai Rong was sent flying with his body curled up, and he coughed up a mouthful of blood. Although he had grabbed Jing Qiu's arm a moment before, the frost armor automatically absorbed the pulling force, so Jing Qiu didn't suffer any harm at all. The female mage could only stare at her savior.

Xue Ying didn't hesitate. He retracted the Flying Snow God Spear, hugged Jing Qiu with one hand, and with the other he picked the biggest shield available to block their back from the explosion's impact.

.....

Jing Qiu had been filled with despair when Si Bai Rong grabbed her and used her as a shield, leaving her vulnerable to the impact of the explosion.

However, a black clothed youth had suddenly flown across the distance with terrifying speed. He'd been so fast that he left behind numerous after images. Jing Qiu saw multiple Xue Yings with the Flying Snow God Spear in one hand and a shield in the other hand coming their way, his expression sharp and perfectly calm, not a shred of panic on his face.

Xue Ying was deflecting all of the exploded rocks, stone pillars and numerous debris.

At this moment...

Jing Qiu felt that Xue Ying's body was enveloped by light, just like the great heroes of the legends!

At this moment, her feelings were aroused.

*Peng.*

Xue Ying had kicked Si Bai Rong with one foot and simultaneously pressed Jing Qiu to his chest, protecting her. Although there was a layer of frost armor between them, but Jing Qiu suddenly felt at ease, just like a child in her father's arms.

Xue Ying wasn't focusing on unnecessary things, he made sure the shield

covered their backs.

*Rumble rumble... ..*

Countless stones were coming from every direction. The explosion this time had caused the whole hall to collapse. The stones in the ceiling and walls were all crumbling down. Debris of different sizes came towards them in a shower. “No!” A shrill scream came from Si Bai Rong. Against this wave of explosion, he struggled to defend himself with a shield, but after getting hit by numerous stones, his body protective dou qi shattered. After that, his weak body couldn’t resist at all. In mere moments, numerous cuts appeared on his body. After several hits on his head, his consciousness faded and he died.

It was extremely difficult to protect one’s life when facing such an explosion. Perhaps only a Legend ranker could have survived.

*Heng.* Xue Ying squatted, Jing Qiu’s body pressed against his, completely protected. Xue Ying’s left hand penetrated into the ground, positioning the shield so it could protect them from the impact.

*Bang bang bang!*

Numerous stones came falling down, and the slanted frost wall collapsed, not able to withstand their assault any longer. Quite a number of them pounded against the shield, several stones even hitting Xue Ying’s feet.

*Humph!* Xue Ying’s left hand clutched deep into the ground. He tried to stabilize their bodies while the shield in his right hand was blocking the stones. He was completely focused on fending off the impact.

Under Xue Ying’s protection, Jing Qiu wasn’t affected at all. Her head lowered, she could only see Xue Ying’s palm tightly gripping the floor.

Looking at his powerful hand, Jing Qiu felt at ease.

“Be careful!” Suddenly – an urgent warning.

*Rumble rumble... ..*

The whole hall collapsed, boulders falling from above.

Xue Ying immediately enveloped his body over Jing Qiu to protect her. At the same time, he positioned his shield above them. The whole hall collapsed with

‘rumble’ sounds, numerous stones falling down. Almost instantly, Xue Ying and Jing Qiu were covered by thick layers of stones.

.....

Slowly, the surroundings quieted down.

The shield was still above their heads.

Xue Ying and Jing Qiu were beneath it, enveloped in darkness. After the explosion had gradually dissipated, their surroundings turned pitch black.

*Heng.* Xue Ying frowned slightly. His right leg was crushed, but considering his body’s strength, this was nothing more than a flesh wound.

“Are you okay?” Jing Qiu asked him worriedly. She had heard Xue Ying’s grunt,  
.

“I’m fine.” Xue Ying’s voice was still calm, although his right arm supporting the shield felt tense. The pressure from the weight of the debris was around 15,000-20,000 kilograms, “Wait a moment. I will break open from under the rocks so we can get out.”

## Book 2: Chapter 23 – Making Profits and Returning Home

Within the darkness, Jing Qiu was currently experiencing a very special feeling.

Before, under the pressure of the Demonic God Emissary, she had already given come to terms with dying. Yet, unknowingly, the ever-ordinary Xue Ying suddenly came to her rescue, displaying shocking strength in battling and killing the Emissary! Then came the suicidal Lu Huai Ru, who had decided to drag everyone within the Hall down with him. At this point, her life was threatened again, as she was being used as a shield for Si Bai Rong.

And yet again, she was saved.

Within the darkness, buried under the numerous rocks, Jing Qiu was experiencing hundreds of complex emotions.

*Peng!* With a loud bang, Xue Ying used his arm's strength to lift the shield above him, pushing away the countless rocks.

"Let's go."

Xue Ying wrapped his hand around Jing Qiu's waist before explosively leaping up and away. At the same time, with the shield in his other hand, he smacked away everything blocking their way.

One would think that this way, with one hand hugging onto a beautiful female mage's waist, he would certainly feel lovely. However, in reality, because of the frost armour that had been enveloping Jing Qiu, the feeling of hugging her was really ordinary – cold and hard, and completely uncomfortable.

*Boom!* Landing on top of the debris, Xue Ying let go of Jing Qiu.

"You best be careful. Even with the collapse of the entire Great Hall, there is the possibility of debris falling again. That frost armour of yours should always be kept on." Xue Ying swept a glance across the surroundings. Everything was in



crumbles, excluding the inner castle's first and second level's pillars, which were currently holding up several of the stone floors above them.

Should any of the supporting pillars move, or should the walls be tilted the slightest bit, the delicate balance would break, causing the collapse of the entire ceiling. Regardless, occasionally, some rocks would still fall.

These were undoubtedly harmless to any powerful Knights, though the same could not be said for the physically weak mages. Thus, it was extremely important for them to have defensive spells protecting their bodies.

*"En."* Jing Qiu nodded. "You..."

*Sou.* Xue Ying was already far away from her, his long spear digging through the debris, in search of corpses.

However, under such explosive power, even the now dead Demonic God Emissary would become paste. After all, this kind of explosion could easily kill any Silver Moon Knight. If under no protection, regardless of whether it was Tang Xiong, or the Demonic God Emissary, or Lu Huai Ru, their bodies would be so fragmented that nobody would be able to recognise them. It was the same case for Si Bai Rong.

"I've found all of their belongings. Let's go." Xue Ying walked towards Jing Qiu.

"Alright." Jing Qiu nodded, then both headed out of the inner chambers. With the collapse of the entire Great Hall and of the upper levels, Jing Qiu and Xue Ying had an easy time navigating their way out of this place.

Even if the roads ahead were blocked, with the strength of a Legend ranker, Xue Ying would easily open up a path.

"Dong Bo Xue Ying, thank you," Jing Qiu said gratefully, "Thank you for saving me. If you weren't here, I'd have definitely died."

When considering the previous disastrous situation, even if Xue Ying chose not to save her, it would have been perfectly reasonable and understandable.

"It's nothing. To me, such an action is simply a small matter. To you, however, it meant living or dying." Xue Ying's eyes had a glint of cold as he spoke. "I just never would have thought that Si Bai Rong could be so shameless."

A knight holding a mage as a shield?

That was a first for Xue Ying.

“I, too, never thought he could do such a thing.” Jing Qiu did not hold anything against Bai Rong. After all, he had died from the explosion. “Dong Bo Xue Ying, do not worry. I will take everything regarding Si Bai Rong’s matter to my grave. As for anything regarding this mission, I will keep it a secret as well.”

After all, Jing Qiu felt that Xue Ying hiding his true strength until the very last moment was his own business. Thus, she had no reason to blabber about it to others.

Xue Ying gave her a smile.

“Ah, your leg is bleeding!” Jing Qiu suddenly realised that there were some bloodstains on Xue Ying’s leg, caused by the explosion.

“*Haha*, the bleeding has long stopped. Even the blood has dried up. This is an insignificant flesh wound!” The stronger a Knight’s body, the faster its healing rate. Even now, no wound nor scars could be seen around the supposedly wounded area.

The two of them walked side by side out of the castle.

The male in black, the female garbed in azure and covered by an external layer of frost armour.

“It’s Liang Yong.” After walking for a while, they finally saw his body. After all, the entire inner castle had an area of up to 1-2 miles. The explosion had only destroyed the basement, also affecting the first and second levels of the inner castle. Still, in the end, the octagonal shape of the inner castle had remained unaffected, including the hallway where Liang Yong had died.

“At least his whole body was left intact,” Xue Ying said.

.....

The two of them exited the inner castle. They finally reached the courtyard, frozen by Jing Qiu’s frost spell. The ordinary soldiers had long ago escaped from this place.

Xue Ying looked upwards, spotting the flying-ship with his terrifying vision,

even amidst the dark skies and at the distance of a few hundred meters.

“Come on down,” Xue Ying shouted out, his voice reverberating across the silent dark sky.

*Hu—*

In the skies, the silver flying-ship, on constant surveillance, responded and came flying down towards Xue Ying.

“Just you two?” The Dragon Mountain Manor’s two members of personnel came walking out, asking, “What about the rest? Si Bai Rong?”

“They died,” Xue Ying said whilst taking out three important storage treasures, “This armband belongs to Liang Yong, the other protective band belongs to Si Bai Rong, and this ring is Tang Xiong’s. Please take these and return them back to their families!”

“All of them died? What exactly happened?” The two Dragon Mountain Manor’s members of personnel were shocked. One of them took the three storage treasures from Xue Ying. Within Dragon Mountain Manor, such cases were a norm, where people died and their storage treasures were retrieved to be given back to their families. Over time, these actions had turned into an unwritten rule. Even though most of the stored treasures were returned, there were still cases when those partaking in the same mission took away some of the deceased’s items.

The knight from Dragon Mountain Manor looked at Xue Ying, then accepted the fact as it was.

Even if they had taken away some of the extremely precious treasure, there was no evidence!

*In reality —*

Xue Ying hadn’t taken a single item from the storage treasures of the three deceased knights. Liang Yong’s armband had been actually found within Si Bai Rong’s storage treasure! If not for Xue Ying, it was very likely that Liang Yong’s storage treasure would have been snatched away by Bai Rong.

*‘I actually thought that Si Bai Rong had a lot of treasures... Who could have*

*known that he was so poor!*' Xue Ying thought silently to himself. Having searched the storage treasures carefully, he understood that Tang Xiong was even richer than Bai Rong! Apparently, the big 'Si Clan' was very strict in financial matters. A cowardly young master who was not willing to venture out by himself hadn't received much.

He who had such a rich-looking appearance, didn't have deep pockets after all! Instead of depending on others, why not rely only on himself, tempering his character through many life and death experiences, just as Tang Xiong did?

Of course, the total value of the three deceased' treasures could hardly compare to even the slightest bit of the Demonic God Emissary's!

'This Emissary... is seriously rich.' Each time he recalled what he had seen, he felt astounded.

How could he know the story behind this Demonic God Emissary and the circumstances of how he had come to be? Xue Ying couldn't possibly know that it was only after he had killed a Legend ranker with strength comparable to his that the Emissary could obtain the two huge space storage rings.

*'I, Dong Bo Xue Ying, was previously extremely tight on gold. Yet now, I guess one could say that within the entire Azure River County, I'm one of the top ten richest people,'* Xue Ying thought to himself. *'Only several other Legend rankers could compete with me in terms of wealth. En. En. This time when I go back, I shall buy some protective equipment for my brother, and give him these powerful spell scrolls from the storage treasure.'*

Spell scrolls were spells that could move the heaven and earth, although they required the guidance of a mage. Knights could never utilise these scrolls by themselves.

Of course, in front of a Legend ranker... a Legend ranker who comprehended the realm of 'One with the World'... such a person could control the forces of nature, and thus, such spell scrolls would not be able to display their might at all.

Only another Legend ranker or a Transcendent could threaten someone of the Legend rank!

'Let me improve the protection of my Snowrock Castle as well. *En.* I should also

buy a good staff for that girl You Yue.” After so many years, this was the first time Xue Ying felt so rich. Acquiring the treasure from the Demonic God Emissary who had lived for so many years, was obviously worth so much more than any other Legend ranker’s wealth in an ordinary clan.

“It’s Lu Huai Ru who wanted everyone to die with him, causing the explosion that caused the entire castle to collapse. You will understand when take a look,” Jing Qiu said succinctly.

“Bent Tai Town’s Dragon Mountain Manor will be dispatching someone to take over this area. Let’s bring you two back to the county city first.”

“Alright.”

Xue Ying and Jing Qiu nodded, then headed up onto the flying-ship.

It was only on top of the flying-ship that Jing Qiu finally dropped her frost armour. She looked towards Xue Ying, who was sitting cross-legged at the moment. “Xue Ying, when we reach the County City, are you preparing to go straight back home?”

“Yes.” Xue Ying nodded.

“Which part of Azure River County do you live in?”

“Water Rites Town’s Snowrock Castle. Mage Jing Qiu is always welcome to visit my small territory.” Xue Ying laughed.

“Water Rites Town?”

Jing Qiu lightly nodded.

Within the pitch-black skies shrouded by night, the flying-ship advanced in the moonless night. As the wind blew faintly, Jing Qiu felt a little upsurge in her heart. It was only a moment later that she slowly calmed down from the previous adrenaline-filled battle. What had happened today would be forever etched into her mind.

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## Book 2: Chapter 24 – An Exchange Between Mages

The dawn of the next day. The flying-ship finally arrived at the County City's Dragon Mountain Manor.

"I'll be returning to the Eternal Wind Academy today. Due to the explosion from before, I have gained some insights regarding my frost armour. Thus, when I return, I'll be spending a long time trying to further my understanding, and will not have the chance to come to the Azure River County for the time being." Jing Qiu had just sat onto a fiery-red bird before she unknowingly suddenly said those words.

"Eternal Wind Academy? I've never actually set foot on that place before. I'll definitely visit it when I've the time." Xue Ying freely commented.

*"En."*

Jing Qiu did not say anything else. The fiery-red bird began flying off with the green-robed mage on it, her hair fluttering about as she flew towards the distant skies.

She turned behind, giving one last look at the miniature-looking Dragon Mountain Manor from a distance, before resuming her journey southwards.

.....

Xue Ying set off on his Snowstrider Horse out of the Dragon Mountain Manor, before coming to a shop in another part within the county. This shop specialised in mage equipment. Due to the rarity of mages in the world, customers were few and far in between.

*"Neigh~~~"* Xue Ying came down from his horse, passing its reins to a caretaker.

"Young master, this way please." Immediately, a female attendant came, inviting him in.

“Introduce me to all your frost-related heaven’s grade mage equipment.” Xue Ying said candidly. Though it appeared that the female attendant was looking at him strangely after hearing that ... Introduce everything? This customer sure was rude... Was it a ruse or was this man really someone with power? Regardless, that female attendant still brought Xue Ying around, briefly describing all the equipment within the shop one by one.

“Frost Wristband, Heaven’s grade! It has a small-scale frost domain matrix built within, and a strong attacking power comparable to a third of a Meteor mage’s frost domain’s power!” The female attendant was extremely familiar with the item. “With it, any ordinary mage will have the capability to display a ‘small-scale frost domain’.”

“Continue.” Xue Ying immediately decided that this item was something he wanted as well.

“This wristband is a middle heaven’s grade equipment. There’s an array formation within that allows its wielder to have power rivalling the Turbulent Arrow spell cast by any mage within the heaven’s rank.”

Xue Ying was choosing as he mentally made a list of the items he wanted to buy.

There were spell matrices inscripted within the mage equipment. These matrices are fixed and stable. Any mage could simply instill their magic power into the matrix to activate it. This was extremely convenient for any mage! Of course, there exists a downside to this as the matrix inscripted could not be strengthened. In order to become a powerful mage, it would still be better for one to discover and understand more via research for the sake of coming up with even more powerful spell matrices.

As for battling a Legend ranker, with his control over the forces of nature, a Silver Moon mage would still be unable to display the spell within even with the activation of the matrices inscripted within the equipment.

Thus, to become strong independently without the aid of equipment was still crucial!

Of course...

The chances of meeting a Legend ranker was quite negligible. Furthermore, his brother was currently still an ordinary mage, thus the only spell matrix he could activate would be that of the heaven's grade mage equipment. As for Meteor rank mage equipment, he certainly won't be able to display its prowess.

*"En. Not bad."* After some careful screening, Xue Ying has decided. *"This, this, this and that. That too, and this too. Please give me all of these."*

The female attendant widened her eyes and opened her mouth widely.

What Xue Ying chose was actually all Heaven's grade mage equipment! And what was its significance? Usually, such equipment would rival about 30-40 percent of a Meteor mage's power, or that the equipment was considered to be of a more extraordinary kind.

*"Please calculate how much do all these cost."* Xue Ying instructed the attendant.

*"Oh yes, please give me that staff as well, and this mage's robe."* Xue Ying was buying a staff and robe for You Yue as well. The cost of the staff was much cheaper than everything else – it costs 2000 gold. After all, the sole purpose of a mage's staff was to allow them to cast their spells. In the hands of a novice mage, even the best staff in the world would be under-utilised.

As for the mage's robe, it was actually a Heaven grade mage equipment and thus, was much more expensive – at 18,000 gold.

Xue Ying's relation with You Yue was quite good, thus giving her these items would suffice. After all, she was not as close to him as compared to Xue Ying's brother.

*"This young master."* At this moment, even the owner of the shop was being called over. He said, *"These five Heaven grade equipments are more expensive. Rounding up, they cost a total of 200,000 gold! As for the staff and robe, that will add up to another 20,000 gold! Haha, I'll round up further to a total of 200,000 gold! How about that? I hope for this young master to come visit us more regularly in the future. I'll definitely give you even more discount. Within this Azure River County, I dare not say that my shop is the cheapest, but it is certainly one of the cheapest out there selling mage equipment!"*



Within this entire county, how many people dared to freely spend 200,000 gold in one go!? It was just like that Bent Blade Gai Bin who pillaged for so many years in his life, before earning so much gold...

Only those with a rich background will dare to splurge so much in a single purchase. This kind of customer must definitely be treated well in order to maintain a good relationship with him.

*“En.”* Xue Ying nodded.

“May I know who this young master is?” The shopkeeper asked softly.

“Dong Bo. You may call me Dong Bo.” Xue Ying said.

“Young master Dong Bo, our Red-Moon Manor has many branches within the entire Tranquil Sun Province. This is a VIP token of our shop. With it, you can purchase any item from any of our branches with a 10% discount.” The shopkeeper immediately took out a violet-gold plate that was crafted by a mage and gave it to Xue Ying.

The shopkeeper decided that the moment he got back home, he would definitely investigate carefully who exactly was this person within the entire Azure River County that could splurge 200,000 gold so freely.

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After the purchase, Xue Ying once again went off in search of some refiner equipment, some clothes befitting a Silver Moon Knight for himself , and of course, some items for his two uncles. It was only after buying all these did Xue Ying finally set off to his homeland – Water Rites Town.

After two days of journey, he finally reached Snowrock Castle in the evening.

“Finally, I’m home.” Xue Ying looked from a distance, the towering Snowrock Mountain and the castle situated right on top of its peak. He felt joy. He was finally home.

*Clatter...*

The horse ran at top speed, and within moments, he finally reached the castle grounds.

“Our Lord has returned!”

“Our Lord has returned! Quick, go and inform young master Qin Shi!”

The entire castle began buzzing with excitement. The drop-bridge started dropping down alongside the opening of the gates.

Zong Ling and Tong San came to the city gate entrance excitedly to welcome their Lord.

“Uncle Zong, Uncle Tong.” Xue Ying said with a smile as he disembarked from his horse.

“Your journey back home must have been tiring. Qing Shi was currently still with his teacher. The servants have already gone to inform him about your return. I believe that Qing Shi and You Yue will be very excited.” Zong Ling said happily.

Xue Ying nodded and started preparing his presents for them.

“Oh right, I’ve some news for you. Just before, a famous mage from the Si Clan, ‘Si Chen’ came to our castle.” Zong Ling stated.

“Si Clan?” Xue Ying frowned. Was it because of the death of Si Bai Rong? But judging from reasoning, the Si Clan would not know who actually participated in the mission. The Dragon Mountain Manor would not tell them. Jing Qiu, too, said she would keep it a secret. Furthermore, she had long gone back to her academy.

“Just two days ago, this mage Si Chen came here in search of Great Mage Bai Yuan Zhi. Both of them are Meteor-rank mage. According to what I heard, both of them have some discoveries which required an exchange of information.” Zong Ling said, “Xue Ying, you should know the status of the Si Clan within our Azure River County. I do not dare to slight them. Though it’s good that you have returned. He has been studying at the Great Mage’s building all this while. It’s better that you visit him.”

“En.” Xue Ying nodded.

What a coincidence?

During the mission, he met the Si Clan’s Si Bai Rong. Now, there was mage Si Chen in his castle. However, it was highly probable that these two matters were

unrelated because he came here 2 days ago.

‘It seems like I am fated to meet with the Si Clan...’ Xue Ying silently thought to himself.

“Uncle Zong, please send someone to invite this young master of the Si Clan to dinner tomorrow.” Xue Ying instructed.

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## Book 2: Chapter 25 – Ji Rong

That night within Snowrock Castle.

The long table was filled with a variety of dishes. Xue Ying was seated right at the head of the table, with Zong Ling and Tong San on his left and right respectively. Opposite him was his brother and his female friend, with You Yue beside on her other side.

“Brother, this is Ji Rong, one of teacher’s disciples as well. She also lives within Water Rites Town.” Qing Shi had a slight blush on his face, even though he still said it simply.

“Ji Rong? Haha...” Xue Ying laughed haughtily, “you can call me big brother like how Qing Shi does!”

“Ji Rong meets Xue Ying big brother.” Ji Rong said crisply, her voice was soothing to the ear.

This Miss Ji Rong seemed to be quite young, as young as his little brother. She was not that tall, and can be considered petite. Although, with her beautiful eyes, she could also be called a beauty. Quite a fitting pair with his brother. Unknowingly... his little brother had already grown up from that small snotty child to having a girlfriend by his side.

Having said that, he himself had not even dated a girl before in his life! Even though he was quite close with You Yue, he was not in the mood to clarify his relationship with her as the matter of saving his parents was still looming overhead.

“Even though we’re only meeting for the first time, I’ve prepared a little gift for you. Please accept it.” Xue Ying said, while taking out a white crystal box.

“Go accept it!” Qing Shi encouraged his girlfriend.

Ji Rong walked towards Xue Ying, receiving the gift from him. “Thank you, big brother Xue Ying.”

“Haha...” Xue Ying laughed happily. Although he was a little embarrassed of the lavish gifts he bought for his little brother, You Yue, Uncle Zong, Uncle Tong, he did not think of getting one for his little brother’s girlfriend. After all, this was his first time meeting her, and thus, he momentarily forgot about her! It was only after knowing that his brother was bringing his girlfriend to dinner that he hurriedly prepared an appropriate gift for her.

Fortunately, the mission he partook this time was very rewarding. Within the storage treasure of that Demonic Emissary was a box of Jewelry which should have been obtained from somewhere on the emissary’s journey. After calculating the net worth of all the jewelry within the box, the total value should amount to 10,000 gold. Thus, Xue Ying selected one of the beautiful jewelry from within, and enclosed it inside a beautiful crystal box before giving it to Ji Rong. It should approximately be worth a thousand gold.

Still, she was only his little brother’s girlfriend, and not his fiancée. Thus, 1000 gold was considered to be the right value for her! After all, in some parts of the county, there are families who worked for an entire year only to earn a thousand gold.

“Brother, this time, you came back quite early.”

“This time, I went to the County City to buy some gifts for you and You Yue.” Xue Ying smiled at his words. “You Yue, this is for you.”

After saying, Xue Ying took out a staff and a purple mage robe for her.

“Xue Ying big brother, this is for me?” You Yue hesitated after looking at the gifts. She could immediately discern that the staff was very valuable and the robe was extraordinary. “This staff is made of Wind Yin Wood, and is very precious. I...”

“Since I’ve already decided to give you, just accept it.” Xue Ying nodded smilingly. That staff was only worth 2000 gold, whereas that robe worth 18,000 gold! Being a heaven’s grade mage protective equipment, it would definitely cost a lot.

‘If I let this little brat know that the robe is for a Heaven Mage, I doubt she will accept it.’ Xue Ying chuckled.

*“En.”* You Yue finally accepted the gifts.

Ji Rong, who was seated beside You Yue, looked at that staff and the mage. Her expression changed slightly.

“Brother, what about me? Didn’t you say you bought something for me too?” Qing Shi could no longer remain patient after that.

“What’s the hurry?” Xue Ying glanced at him. “Looking at you behaving like a monkey... I’ll give it to you after dinner.”

“You are doing this deliberately!” Qing Shi felt helpless after hearing that.

“Precisely. I’m deliberately doing this. Mages usually have patience, so take this as an opportunity to discipline yourself.” Xue Ying lightly nodded.

“Oh.” Qing Shi could only obediently listen to his brother’s words.

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Having finished dinner, You Yue retreated to her room within the castle. After all, there was already a small courtyard prepared for her to stay at.

As for Qing Shi, he brought his girlfriend back to the Great Mage’s building.

“Ji Rong, what did brother give you?” Qing Shi and Ji Rong were walking side by side.

It was only now that Ji Rong finally opened that crystal box.

Within it was a necklace with an aquamarine gem. In the darkness, there was a faint green glow emitting from the aquamarine itself.

“A top-grade aquamarine necklace! I’m afraid this would cost at least a thousand gold...” Ji Rong was stunned. Being a mage, she would naturally know about the many materials and gems in the world.

“So valuable!?” Qing Shi was shocked. “My brother is generous, right?”

“Generous, indeed he is very generous!” Ji Rong kept her crystal box, thinking for a while before asking softly, “Dong Bo Qing Shi, do you know how much the staff that you brother gave You Yue is worth?”

“That staff? The one made of Wind Yin Wood? I guess it should be around 2000 gold!” Qing Shi replied casually, “You Yue has been with us for a long time!

So I guess her relation with my big brother should be very good. For a long period of time, he did not give her a staff at all. Naturally, it is expected for him to give such a good staff to her for the first time.”

“Hmph!” Ji Rong snorted, “I’m not talking about the staff. I’m talking about the robe! That mage robe he gave her!”

“Mage equipment?” Qing Shi stared at her, “Are you sure you didn’t see wrongly?”

“Kong You Yue was seated beside me, so definitely, I saw everything. That robe is actually a mage’s equipment! There is even a marking on top of it inscripted by Master Refiner ‘Yan Wen’. The equipment refined by Master Refiner ‘Yan Wen’ are at the very least, Earth grade, with most of them being Heaven’s grade!” Ji Rong coldly snorted.

“You sure you did not mistake it for something else ?” Qing Shi did not dare to believe.

“I am a mage, so how could I mistake it for something else?” Ji Rong had an inexplicable look on her face. “Great Refiner Yan Wen only refines Earth grade equipment at the very least. Thus, that robe would be worth at least 5000 gold or more. Adding the worth of that staff, the gift your brother gave Kong You Yue should be more than 10,000 gold! Dong Bo Qing Shi, you tell me, isn’t your brother generous?”

Qing Shi grinned, “My brother and You Yue have always been very close to each other.”

“You are be so single-minded.” Ji Rong continued softly, “You and your brother are related by blood. You are also one of his successors! Can you stand watching your brother give all these precious gifts away?” Qing Shi stared blankly after hearing that.

“You are already 16 this year. I don’t think you will want to depend on your brother for the rest of your life?” Ji Rong said. “Even between brothers, you must clearly settle the accounts!”

“Why are you saying this?” Qing Shi frowned somewhat angrily.

“I’m doing this for your own good.” Ji Rong continued, “You should have seen

a few years ago when my father worked day and night for the business, solely because he trusted my uncle too much! The money earned certainly belongs to the entire family. After a full 20 years of hard work by my father himself, the entire family's worth should solely belong to him! Guess what? In the end, my uncle betrayed him by kicking my father out of the family. My father did not get anything in the end, not even a small home for us to live in. We had to stay at our mother's side from then on."

"I'm saying all of these to tell you, even if you do not have the intent to harm anyone, you must have your defenses ready in case someone harms you!"

"I've long heard from you before how hard your brother trained, and that it was only because of the medicinal baths he took that your brother did not fall apart! Yet did you know how much does it cost for him to take medicinal baths every day for a year? 5000 gold! From 6 years old until 16, your brother has spent 10 whole years! This is 50,000 gold!" Ji Rong exclaimed, "Your parents bought the title of nobility, a territory and a large amount of Star Breaking Crossbow... and even prepared years of medicines for your brother to bathe in. Adding the armours, the castle and various spending, all of these total up close to a sum of 200,000 gold! This clearly shows that it was due to luck that your parents became wealthy overnight."

"You have been spending money wastefully in the past, and as for your brother, before he killed the Silver Moon Wolf King, he did not even take the time to earn back the money spent."

"For so long, whatever you've been spending is the inheritance left behind from your parents!"

"Do you know how much your parents even left behind? Do you?"

Qing Shi kept quiet.

"You don't know!" Ji Rong sneered, "With such a big sum of money, I believe that your parents must have gotten a few relics left behind by a Legend ranker, or even a Transcendent. Anything is possible! However, now that everything is being governed by your brother, you do not have even the slightest bit of knowledge on what is left behind by your parents."

"Everything is being controlled by your brother. Guess what? Now, he actually



splurged more than 10,000 gold on a gift for You Yue! More than 10,000 gold! That year, my brother spent more than 20 years of hard work and effort before earning this amount yet he readily gave this away.” Ji Rong looked at Qing Shi, “Strictly saying, all of these inheritance left behind by your parents does not belong to your brother alone. You should have a share as well!”

## Book 2: Chapter 26 – The thoughts of Qing Shi

“Being one of the successors of the Dong Bo Clan, it’s fine not receiving a share of the inheritance, but at the very least, you should know how much your parents left behind!” Ji Rong shook her head, “Yet you don’t even know a single thing... Maybe i’m just a villain, but knowing how to protect yourself from harm is certainly the right thing to do!”

“Stop. Don’t say anymore.” Qing Shi was furious, “You don’t even know a single thing between me and my brother!”

“Wait until your brother kicks you out of the clan, then you’ll only be dumbfounded.” Ji Rong continued shaking her head.

“You! Woman, shut up!” Qing Shi’s eyes were red with fury. There were even some tears. “He is my big brother, the most important person in my life! Do you even know this?”

Ji Rong was appalled.

Seeing Qing Shi with his eyes turn red, she could not help but lower her head while grabbing his hands, “I’m sorry. I was wrong.”

“You don’t know anything about the relationship between me and my brother. So next time, don’t spout all these nonsense. I feel agitated after hearing it.” Qing Shi said with a shaky voice .

“*Mn. Mn.*” Ji Rong nodded, softly comforted him, “Do you know, that year when my father was swept out by my uncle from home, we did not even have a place to stay? We could only temporarily stay at my mother’s family home. Me, my father, my mother... were all looked down upon by them. It is the most miserable part of my life, and something which I’ll never forget. Fortunately, my father had the gall to start another business again. Otherwise, I would not be here, having a chance to learn magic...”

“I understand.” Qing Shi replied, “However, your family and mine are totally

different. Alright. Go back and rest. I'll be going back as well."

Saying that, Qing Shi promptly turned tail and headed back towards the castle.

Ji Rong silently stood there, looking at Qing Shi walking away.

"Who would have thought that his brother was put on such a high pedestal in his heart." Ji Rong frowned. "Learning magic with this Dong Bo Qing Shi, and being his girlfriend for over half a year, this is my first time having the chance to explain to him about his circumstances! Of course, whatever I've said certainly make sense logically, yet he became so agitated after hearing it."

"How exactly did this Dong Bo Clan become so wealthy?"

"If only I could find out..."

Ji Rong laughed softly, her expression showing evil intent. "Even though he is so close with his brother, after today, I've finally put a seed of doubt in his mind which I believe will sprout soon in the near future. This Dong Bo Qing Shi is too innocent already. I guess his brother sheltered him far too much. Such a brat, if I could not conquer him, then that would be hilarious."

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Along the way back to the castle, Qing Shi kicked a piece of rock furiously. "My brother has never ever deceived me before."

"That time when I was accepted as a disciple, I heard from teacher that his condition of accepting me was either 50,000 gold or a Silver Moon Wolf King's heart." Qing Shi's eyes brightened up. "My brother then told me to wait for a month for his news. After which, he went off with Uncle Zong to the Mountain Range of Desolation... with one sweep, eradicated the Bent Blade Union, successfully killed the Silver Moon Wolf King, before becoming an expert of Water Rites Town."

"Yes, I still remembered..."

"That time when I went with my brother to buy the Flying God Snow Spear, my brother had even owed the shopkeeper 10,000 gold!"

Qing Shi's eyes became brighter and brighter, "Yes, I definitely remembered correctly. If father and mother really left behind a huge inheritance, then I doubt

my brother would enter the Mountain Range. He should instead just give up the 50,000 gold! And if we were rich, then why would he even write a debt payable of 10,000 gold?”

When he grew up, he finally understood how dangerous the Mountain Range of Desolation was.

He also finally understood teacher’s condition for accepting him as a disciple – either 50,000 gold or the heart of a Silver Moon Wolf King. Even though Xue Ying did not dwell much on it, it was not some big secret. Furthermore, being the personal disciple of the Great Mage, he would definitely know of the matter sooner or later. This coupled with the memory of his brother killing a Silver Moon Wolf King, Qing Shi could easily deduce the answer.

Thus, deep within his heart, he was extremely grateful to his brother.

He felt that...

His brother was like a huge mountain, always by his side, protecting him.

As the saying goes, a father’s love is akin to that of a mountain.

Yet no matter how hard he tried, he did not have a clear memory of his parents. He only remembered of how much effort his brother put in over the years in taking care of him.

“What ‘having protection against harm from others’? I know that my brother will never harm me.”

“A man’s intent is always hidden? Even if my brother really did something outrageous, like kicking me out of the castle, I would still be willing to accept it.”

Dong Bo Qing Shi gritted his teeth.

However, it was an undeniable truth that whatever Ji Rong said about having defenses against external harm by others, had subconsciously affected Qing Shi, letting him know that he would still have to depend on himself in the future. After all, following his brother and depending on him forever would be meaningless.

“Damn it! Damn it! I’m so agitated!” Qing Shi was very uncomfortable within his heart. For so long, he had been living in such a carefree manner. Yet, after

hearing Ji Rong's words, his mind was a mess.

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Snowrock Castle, within the study room.

Xue Ying was smiling as he sat on the side, looking towards his two uncles testing out all the refined armor, boots, and other equipment.

"Xue Ying, you have surely splurged a lot on these..." Hong Ling could no longer control his curiosity. "How much did you actually spend on all this equipment?"

"Hahaha... It isn't much." Xue Ying bellowed out, "This time when I went out on the mission, there were some twists in the end. I actually met a Legend-ranker."

"Legend ranker?"

Zong Ling and Tong San were both aghast.

God.

Legend rankers to them were considered to be akin to that of the boundless skies, a rank which they would never touch upon. Thus, when Xue Ying finally attained the strength of a Legend ranker, they were extremely excited about it. Still, they felt that Xue Ying was still too young, and that was because he had not comprehend the state of being 'One with the World', he would lose out to the older and more experienced Legend rankers.

Who would have thought otherwise that during this mission, Xue Ying actually met a Legend ranker!

"Even though he was really strong, and that he has some powerful techniques, I still manage to dispose off him." Xue Ying joyful whenever he thought back. "He died and I live on! I obtained his storage treasure rings, and within it were a filthy vast amount of treasures! Haha... Buying all these is considered nothing much!"

Zong Ling and Tong San both felt proud at this.

"Xue Ying ah..." Zong Ling felt a little worried still. "You have met such an accident while partaking in a Black Iron Order mission. You say you want to accumulate 20,000 merit points to save Dong Bo and Ah Yu... Yet these 20,000 merit points... let's say you accept an easier Bronze Order mission, you will only

attain 1000 merit points at most. But those dangerous Bronze Order mission that gives 10,000 merit points in one go...”

“All Black Iron Order missions already have the risk of escalating its danger level. If we consider the Bronze Order mission that has a danger level way beyond that of the Black Iron Order missions... and you have to complete two of the missions?” Hong Ling felt disturbed at this, “It’s extremely unsafe! How about you wait a while more, become stronger before accepting these missions?” “Do not worry, Uncle Zong. I’m able to take care of myself.” Xue Ying was touched by his worry.

Still, even after hearing his words, Zong Ling was still uneasy.

How could one take care of himself against the unknowns?

A simple Black Iron Order mission escalated up to it having a Legend ranker enemy. If we consider those harder Bronze Order mission, would it suddenly escalate up to the presence of a Transcendent within? Even though the Dragon Mountain Manor’s missions were not suicidal, accidents could always happen.

“Brother.” Outside the room came Qing Shi’s voice.

“Qing Shi, you came.” Xue Ying smiled at his brother. Qing Shi pushed open the door to the study room. He was already jumping with excitement. “Brother, I thought you said you are going to be giving me something? What is it? Uwahh! Uncle Zong, Uncle Tong, how come you’ve changed? The armour you are wearing looks really extraordinary! What about your boots? I’ve never seen them before?”

“This time when I went out on the mission, I’ve actually gained something. Thus, I decided to buy you guys some gifts.” Xue Ying grinned. “I’ve also bought many things for you.”

Saying that, with a wave of his hand...

*Hu Hu Hu ...*

Beside them appeared many treasures. All of them were Heaven’s grade mage equipment.

“This robe contains a complete ‘Ice armour’ spell matrix within. Regardless of

whether it is the frost armour or Water ripple spell, with this inbuilt matrix, you could instantaneously cast them! It has half the power of a Meteor mage.” Xue Ying slightly introduced the equipment. “This wristband contains a small-scale Frost domain spell matrix within. It has a third of the power of a Meteor mage. This ring...”

Xue Ying introduced one item by one item.

Qing Shi was shocked and excited at the same time.

He finally understood why his brother gave You Yue such an extravagant gift – the staff and the robe – even though he did not give her anything the past few years. It was after all a huge gain during this mission that allowed him to become so wealthy, that even refined equipment worn currently by Uncle Zong and Uncle Tong were worth even more than what was given to You Yue. As for his gifts? Needless to say, it costs much more.

All of these equipment are actually Heaven’s grade Mage equipment, which were things he dared not even think of having in the past.

## Book 2: Chapter 27 – Dong Bo Xue Ying, a Legend ranker?

“This is the last piece, and also the most important one,” Xue Ying displayed a pendant containing a transparent sphere within. “This pendant could store up to a Heaven mage’s worth of magic power. After all, as you do not have much magic power, using all the various mage equipment would be very taxing on your body. Thus, use the time now to store up enough energy for use in critical situations.”

“Mn.” Qing Shi nodded.

*Big brother really is too thoughtful.*

“But using all the various mage equipment is still ultimately an external aid!” Xue Ying spoke, “Your own strength is still very important.”

Even with all that mage equipment, to a powerful Knight, especially one above Meteor rank, Qing Shi’s life would still be threatened. At the very most, these items would allow Qing Shi to triumph over anyone below the rank of Meteor! Regardless, due to the instantaneous casting of the matrices built into the equipment, he could still barely fight against a Meteor knight.

“Brother, I understand. These pieces of equipment are very powerful, even teacher does not own so much mage equipment,” Qing Shi exclaimed.

“This storage treasure ring was obtained by me recently. It contains a huge space, and is practically priceless. Remember, don’t let others see it.” Xue Ying then took out a black ring, “You are now a genuine mage, so remember to cast some spell to camouflage the ring to prevent others from finding out what it is.”

Although its appearance was nothing special, Xue Ying was still extremely vigilant on this matter.

One must know, the value of a storage treasure ring with a one meter radius was already ten of thousands of gold coins! This ring had a three meter radius of



storage... this was simply amazing! It could go for a million gold coins! This number was simply frightening. For a storage ring of this level... usually only Legend rankers were able to have one. Even some nobles and rich merchants did not have the capability of owning such a storage treasure ring.

And as for those rings within the hands of Legend rankers, few could compare to the size of the storage ring given to Qing Shi!

“It’s this big?” Qing Shi tried infusing his magic power into the ring and immediately, became wide-eyed, “S... So big!”

Refining a storage treasure was an extremely difficult task.

Refining small storage treasures could easily be done with some simple refining methods. As for those storage treasure rings with a very large space... one would require the aid of a Transcendent mage who was extremely proficient in the laws of space to ensure the dimension created was big and stable. After all, inscribing such a dimension into a storage ring was a very difficult task, ensuring the value of any such rings to be priceless.

Qing Shi was a mage, and thus, he certainly understood how precious this storage treasure ring was.

“Brother, how did you obtain it?” Qing Shi asked curiously, “This is really big...”

“Haha, as I’ve said, this time’s venture outside the castle was very rewarding,” Xue Ying laughed, “You should spend some time to study the spell scrolls within the ring as well. They are considered to be worthless to Uncle Zong, Uncle Tong and me, so all of them will be yours. After all, these items are life-saving treasures, so remember to study them meticulously.”

Spell scrolls were something even more rebellious against the laws of nature.

Taking out a spell scroll and infusing one’s magic power into it, with a ‘*hong*’, one could cast an extremely powerful spell instantaneously! However, the drawback of such scrolls was that they were single-use.

Thus, using spell scrolls was actually equivalent to throwing gold away!

Regardless, such scrolls were still in high demand in the markets. After all, during critical situations, a mage might not have the time to slowly chant out the

spell for casting powerful magic, but they could utilise the scroll's instantaneous casting ability to save their own life! What Xue Ying was giving to his brother was actually all the scrolls that were collected after many years of battle by the Demonic God Emissary.

"Big brother, these spell scrolls are too precious already!" Qing Shi could not take in everything at the moment after realising that every single scroll within were at least of the fifth-grade. As for whether there were higher grade spell scrolls, he would have to carefully look through the entire inventory.

"I'm kind of afraid." Qing Shi was worried.

So many treasures in his hands would certainly make him wary of everything.

"What are you afraid of?" Xue Ying shook his head, "Go and categorize all the various spell scrolls based on their killing power, from high to low. Use them only when you need to! During life and death situation, surviving is still more important."

"Mn." Qing Shi nodded.

"Camouflage the ring and bring the scrolls with you everywhere. So long you don't leak out that you are carrying so many treasures, coupled with Uncle Tong, Uncle Zong and me not telling a single soul, no one will know about it." Xue Ying warned, "Remember, do not ever tell anyone about what you have! Even if it's that little girlfriend of yours..."

Within Snowrock Castle...

Xue Ying truly trusted the three men before his very eyes. Uncle Zong and Uncle Tong would sacrifice themselves for his parents at anytime, and were considered to be his family. As for his own little brother, their relationship was so close that nothing needed to be mentioned. It was just that his brother was still too young and might go out boasting to everyone. That was why Xue Ying was currently trying to remind his brother again and again of the importance of the matter.

"Brother, don't worry. I understand. I won't tell a single soul." Qing Shi said.

"Haha, don't be so nervous. These are, after all, just some goods. Your own inner strength is still more important." Xue Ying smiled at him. He treated these

items given as mere items after all.

However, Qing Shi had very complex feelings within his heart.

Before, his girlfriend said so much crap, yet now, his brother gave so many gifts. The total value was so high that what his teacher earned over so many years could not even compare to a tenth of what he now had.

“Brother, can I hug you?” Qing Shi came walking towards his brother, hugging him tightly.

“This brat...” Xue Ying hugged his brother back, patting his head softly.

When they were young, Qing Shi would always hug him even in his sleep.

But as they grew up over the years, it had been a while since they had hugged.

“Mn. Good.” Qing Shi looked upwards with a grin, “Brother, I’ll go back first and study those scrolls.” Having said that, he turned around and ran out.

Xue Ying looked towards the door as his brother ran out, before frowning.

“It’s time for us to leave as well. Xue Ying, sleep early.” Tong San stated.

“Close the doors first. I’ve something to tell you all,” Xue Ying was still frowning.

Zong Ling closed the door, before the two of them looked towards Xue Ying.

“I feel that Qing Shi is behaving differently today.” Xue Ying said, “Even though he acted normal, having watched him grow up all these years, I can see through his acts the moment he blinks. Furthermore, he hugged me at the end... confirming my guess that something is strange.”

“Oh?” Zong Ling and Tong San were filled with uncertainty.

Xue Ying spoke his deep thoughts, “At his age, having spent his time carefree on the mountain, I guess the only reason should be some relationship issues! During dinner, he was behaving normally. But the moment he went out to send his girlfriend home, his behaviour changed. I’m afraid that this must be related to that girlfriend of his.”

“Uncle Zong.” Xue Ying said.

Xue Ying instructed, “I’ll be writing a letter. Please send someone to pass it to

the Dragon Mountain Manor Lord of Water Rites Town! Ask for his help in investigating the background behind this Ji Rong! From her birth until now, her relatives, what she has been doing and anything else. Inform me of all of this . I must understand who exactly is this Ji Rong!”

Even if his brother was behaving normally, he would still investigate thoroughly Ji Rong’s background.

Someone who did not have a clean upbringing, how would Xue Ying put down his heart in letting her stay with his brother for the rest of Qing Shi’s life?

“Yes. I’ll immediately send someone over,” Zong Ling nodded, before smiling. “Xue Ying, why did you not tell Qing Shi that you have attained the strength of a Legend ranker?”

“Right, Xue Ying. You are going to be accepting Bronze Order mission, so why hide your strength?” Tong San added.

Xue Ying lightly shook his head, “Qing Shi, that brat is already too inexperienced. He is too pure, too innocent. Were I to tell him that I’m a Legend ranker, who knows what he will become! He might even become some rich and arrogant playboy, which is something I have hoped would not happen. Qing Shi is not putting in enough effort into his practice. Even You Yue has broken through and become an Earth mage, and yet, he remains a Human mage still.”

“So demanding. Don’t forget he’s still 16 this year.” Zong Ling laughed.

“I was 15 when I entered the Mountain Range of Desolation killing Silver Moon Wolves.” Xue Ying shook his head, “I guess I should find Great Mage Bai Yuan Zhi to discuss about giving Qing Shi a bit more pressure, instead of doing nothing every day. His innate talent in magic is much higher than mother’s. Since young, he’s had great mental strength, yet among the disciples of Great Mage Bai Yuan Zhi, he is considered as only ordinary. Even You Yue, with a weaker innate talent than him, reached a higher stage albeit having started at the same time as Qing Shi.”

Currently, Xue Ying was already a Legend ranker, standing at the peak of any mortals. Yet he was still aiming for Transcendence.

However, he had baggage in his heart still – his little brother.

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Next day, early morning.

Water Rites Town, Dragon Mountain Manor.

“Manor Lord, this is a letter written by Xue Ying himself for you.” The white-haired old man You Tu placed a letter on the long table.

Lord Si An, who was sitting quietly by the table, perked up at that, “It’s a letter written personally by Dong Bo Xue Ying? Sent so early in the morning?”

“It was actually sent late in the evening yesterday.” You Tu answered.

“What is so urgent that he has to send a letter yesterday late evening? Why did you not tell me about it earlier?” Lord Si An immediately took up the letter and inspected it.

You Tu laughed, “I’ve skimmed through the letter. It isn’t something urgent, but instead, it’s just him asking Manor Lord to help him investigate the background behind his little brother’s girlfriend ‘Ji Rong’. That was why I didn’t disturb you last night, Manor Lord.”

“Next time, anything related to Xue Ying, please inform me at once.” Lord Si An emphasized.

“Uh... Yes, I understand.” You Tu felt weird. Such a trivial thing regarding investigating the backgrounds of a girl must be informed at once as well? When did the majestic Dragon Mountain Manor become so cheap?

“Oh yes, he did send someone to pass a note of 1000 gold to us.” You Tu added.

“The way Dong Bo Xue Ying does things sure is interesting,” Lord Si An laughed. After all, any of these powerful men could ask Dragon Mountain Manor to do minor stuff, but as they were not official, a fee would be required. Investigating the background of a person was simple stuff, yet Xue Ying generously gave them a thousand gold.

“Ji Rong?”

Lord Si An commanded, “Immediately send someone using the highest level of authority to thoroughly investigate all information related to Ji Rong, including

her parents, her relatives and her friends. Format the report starting from her birth until now! Do it fast!”

“Highest level of authority?” You Tu was startled.

Dragon Mountain Manor was made to create an information web regarding everything under the skies. It could be said to have the best network in the world, yet investigating such a minor matter using the highest level of authority? Was it a joke?

“Go.” Lord Si An instructed.

“Yes.” You Tu could only follow his orders.

Lord Si An was sitting by the table, reading the dossier by his side.

“Si An, keep an eye on Dong Bo Xue Ying. Follow him closely. It is highly suspected that he is a Legend ranker – 50% probability!” This was an order sent by the County City with a detailed report coming with it.

“Legend ranker?”

“Is it real or fake...?” Lord Si An could not help but whisper out. Even though it was a day after receiving the report, he was still in a state of shock.

Yet there was enough evidence from the County City.

For instance, Xue Ying had spent up to 500,000 gold buying stuff within the county city. This information regarding Xue Ying’s extravagant spending was just an aid in confirming this possibility. The critical evidence came from the Castle of the Lu Clan. Due to the mission being related to the cult of the Demon God, Dragon Mountain Manor had to investigate thoroughly what exactly happened. They found evidence of short spears penetrating deeply in the rocks! Furthermore, out of the five experts participating in the mission, Xue Ying was the only one using spear as his main weapon!

When he was 15, Dong Bo Xue Ying was seen using short spears, eradicating many of the bandits from the Bent Blade Union! At the same time, there were flying darts found pierced deeply into the gigantic rocks in the castle. Each dart was a powerful weapon refined by a Refining Master, worth 1000 gold! Generally, Silver Moon Knights would not have the luxury to use such weapons.

Judging from how deep these darts and short spears were pierced into the rocks... only Legend rankers were capable of doing this!

Explosions would not cause the short spears and darts to penetrate so deeply!

Furthermore, according to the analysis of the power of the explosion, the possibility of Silver Moon Knights dying from it was almost a certainty! Yet Xue Ying was hardly hurt at all, and even Jing Qiu survived the blast.

There were also many other clues littered about, like the fighting traces left behind at the castle. All of these were enough for one to deduce that... a battle between Legend rankers took place right in the castle! There was a chance that the other party died, and the victor who walked out of it alive was Xue Ying. That was why Xue Ying had become rich overnight and that he could freely splurge 500,000 gold on things he wanted to buy!

“So young and yet, he’s already a Legend Knight? Seriously, this is too frightening.” Lord Si An murmured. The Dragon Mountain Manors throughout the Tranquil Sun Province were already focusing on investigating Dong Bo Xue Ying!

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## Book 2: Chapter 28 – One with the World

After receiving the young mage from the Si Clan, ‘Si Chen’, Xue Ying nodded silently, *‘Becoming a Meteor mage at such a young age, how extraordinary. He is totally different from Si Bai Rong! But of course, with the hundreds of years of history behind the Si Clan in Azure River County, there are certainly many descendents left behind – some are good, while some are evil. For that arrogant playboy Si Bai Rong to appear, there would certainly exist his counterpart, the genius Si Chen.’*

*‘As a knight, before one enters the Legend ranks, one focuses entirely on sculpting their physique. With a good physique, and a good Qi cultivation method, one could cultivate all the way up to the Silver Moon rank smoothly. Thus, among these Silver Moon Knights, there would be some who are good for nothing.’*

*‘As for mages, they are required to have wisdom. To discover the laws of nature, mages require a thirst for knowledge. Powerful mages are not be belittled.’*

Xue Ying sighed.

None of the mages he had met were idiots. All of them were intelligent.

Knights, though, were different. There were many different kinds of knights – some who were brave, some who were reckless, and some who were foolish.

*‘However, regardless of whether one being a mage or a knight, entering the ranks of Legend is indubitably an arduous task.’* Xue Ying nodded lightly. Becoming a Legend ranker was surely very difficult. It was not merely dependent on how good a person’s innate talent was. A ‘Legend ranker’... required one to have a powerful spirit as well. Xue Ying had been a Great Spear Master for many years, yet he had not achieved the state of being One with the World.

He merely depended on his primordial bloodline in order to have the strength



of a Legend ranker.

Any Legend ranker, regardless of whether they were a knight or a mage, were people to be revered – be it a hero, a lord, or a demon.

Only these sorts of existences had the hope of becoming a Transcendent! By then, they would not be mortals anymore. Even deities were afraid of them.

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Time passed day by day as Xue Ying silently meditated instead of accepting more missions. He could feel his spirit reaching a critical point.

“Such joy!”

After meditating, Xue Ying entered the martial fields and practiced his spear techniques, making him feel extremely refreshed.

*Sou.*

After finishing his practice, he leapt to the roof of the adjacent castle .

The main castle covered a huge area with a wide roof of stone. Xue Ying sat by a ladder, leaning against a big rock as he enjoyed the scenery in front of him. This was the highest point on the castle. With a single sweep of his eyes... he could see the peak of the neighbouring mountains, unblemished by the lowlying walls of his castle.

He could clearly see the Great Mage’s manor as well.

At the foot of the mountain, there were farmlands, with civilians living in the villages.

“*Hong hong hong~~~*”

Far off in the distance and at the foot of the mountains was a huge white streak. This was in fact, the namesake of the county, the Azure River!

The Azure River spanned over thousands of kilometers, and was the mother of all of the other rivers in Azure River County!

Even though Xue Ying was overlooking the river from the distance, he could still hear the river surging by.

“So beautiful.”

Xue Ying had a pleasant expression.

The castle, the peak of the mountain, the villages at the foot of the mountain, and the meandering silk-like Azure River all painted a beautiful dream-like scenery.

From youth , Xue Ying had always loved the scenery overlooking his hometown. It was so beautiful. This was his home. A home he loved a lot!

He took out a jug of wine and lightly sipped a mouthful of it. The wine was very spicy. He could feel it at the tip of his tongue. Usually, Xue Ying would just drink some fruit wine instead of hard liquor. Only when he was feeling really good, or really bad would he drink a bit of the liquor. Apparently, he was having a pleasant feeling now.

After killing the Demonic God Emissary, Xue Ying understood more about his power.

There was hope in saving his parents!

His little brother was already so big. Everything was making Xue Ying feel so happy! As for the trivial matters, he did not care at all. Under his absolute power, whoever dared to obstruct his path, would die!

*“Hu... Xi... Hu...”*

Xue Ying’s breath rate began slowing down over time, along with his heartbeat. Even the blood flow in his veins started slowing down so much that it seemed stagnant.

Xue Ying became calmer and calmer.

But his sense of the surroundings became even clearer! The movement of servants in the castle, the far-away soldiers talking among themselves — he could clearly hear it all..

The wind around him! At the peak of the mountain, the gust of wind was very strong, blowing comfortably on his body.

The fragrance from the flowers.

The fresh smell of the grass.

“This is nature. Truly beautiful,” This feeling was something that Xue Ying loved a lot.

*“Bo!”*

Suddenly, within his senses, he could feel the world quivering, or rather, his heart was stirring!

Just like how a chick broke out from the shell, or like how the grass broke out from the soil to grow...

Xue Ying was currently feeling that his spirit finally broke through the physical confinement of his body. He could feel his spirit breaking out of this shell, merging with the nature around him as one! Initially, he thought that nature was beautiful, but this was merely like looking at nature with a thinly veiled layer in between. Now, he could feel his spirit finally breaking through this layer, allowing him to be One with the World!

The wind was blowing, and he became the wind. Countless types of wind were trying to catch up with one another, either mixing or spreading out.

Xue Ying’s ability to feel greatly increased in detail and fidelity, with boundless power –

Power from fire, water, earth, wind, lightning, light, dark... Various different fundamental elemental powers belonging to the world. This was truly the genuine energy from the world! Mages required to utilise matrices in order to guide these power from the world to cast their spells.

Yet after being One with the World, he could directly control all these powers! This was the fundamental difference! That was why in front of a Legend ranker, any mage would be unable to cast a spell.

*“So comfortable.”*

After his spirit broke through the physical shell, being One with the World, Xue Ying immediately received the essence from nature.

Just like how a sprout grows as it receives water.

Since birth, this was the first time his spirit received the essence from nature, inducing a transmogrifying change! This change was extremely fast, so fast that

the transformation ended before Xue Ying could truly savor the feeling of entering the state of One with the World for the first time. But even still, his spirit was already stronger than before by at least ten times, possibly even a hundred times!

Essence of nature, powerful spirit, this was the first step of his dream towards Transcendence.

“One with the World!”

With just a small thought from Xue Ying...

*Boom!!!*

At that moment, fire elemental energy came rushing into his body without the need of any spell matrix. The flame came so much faster than if one were to use a spell to cast it. Xue Ying’s reduced rate of improvement of his physical body suddenly increased tremendously under the aid of the fire elemental power, tempering it immediately! This was something that he could clearly feel.

“No wonder... Those knights who did not awake their primordial bloodline, the moment they become One with the World, they could borrow the forces of energy to complete the transformation, boosting their Qi and entering the ranks of Legend.” Xue Ying rejoiced. .

Currently, the essence of nature nourished his body.

The essence of nature even nourished the Qi within his body, causing his liquefied Qi to thicken.

Within the time taken to brew a cup of tea, the qi sea within his dantian was full of energy! Half an hour later, even his primordial bloodline-activated body could no longer receive any more nourishment from the essence of nature. Just as a person could not become fat from one meal, due to the unlimited essence of nature present, with a single absorption, his qi sea and body were already filled to the brim. A period of time was required for his body to transform naturally.

*‘Based on what I just experienced, I estimate that I’ll need half a month for my Qi to reach the level of Legend Knight’s.’* Xue Ying was extremely elated, *‘My physical body is also being strengthened slowly, reaching twice the strength in*

*about two months time!’*

After attaining One with the World...

Xue Ying’s physical body would continuously improve itself until reaching that of a Transcendent’s – the limit of his primordial bloodline! This was indeed a very frightening ability of his!

“One with the World.”

“I, Dong Bo Xue Ying, have finally attained the state of One with the World at 22 years old!” Xue Ying stood up on top of the roof, proudly looking down at the world below and the far-reaching Azure River, “There’s hope in me becoming a Transcendent! The life of a Transcendent, flying around the world, drinking with the deities, instantaneously shredding apart demons...”

After looking through the top 3000 Legend rankers in the Dragon Mountain’s Book, Xue Ying understood that being able to stand side by side with all these powerful rankers at the age of 22, was something that went against the heavens!

The growth of his spirit was extremely rapid.

He had over 100 years of time to search for his own path to become a Transcendent!

“Hu—”

After releasing his spirit and understanding the state of One with the World, the surroundings became much clearer than before. Xue Ying could clearly sense the soldiers outside his castle eating with their family. Immediately feeling embarrassed at invading their privacy, he cast his senses towards another place – sensing the dwelling of You Yue! She was actually within her house talking with another guy.

“Eh? You Yue’s brother came?” Xue Ying was surprised.

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## Book 2: Chapter 29 – Severing the thread of vexation!

“This You Yue... Why did she not tell me when her brother came? It seems that we’ll have to buy more food for dinner tonight. ” Xue Ying suddenly frowned, under the state of being ‘One with the World’, he could clearly hear everything within the vicinity – even a buzzing housefly. Thus, he distinctly heard whatever You Yue and her brother discussed, ,

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Within You Yue’s house.

“Father let you come visit me because of this matter?” You Yue lightly said.

“Yes.” Kong Hao spoke, “Father told me to tell you that... this Si Clan has the highest status within the entire Azure River County! Regardless of whether it is those from the overt positions – the Military Officers, the County’s prefecture magistrates, the mayors of various towns, or those from the obscure sides – the aggressive bandits, wealthy merchant guilds and several factions hiding within the County, they all know how powerful the Si Clan is!”

“The Si Clan is the heavens of the Azure River County! The Si Clan is Azure River County, and Azure River County is the Si Clan! Whoever is charged guilty by them, would be judged as guilty even if he is innocent!” Kong Hao continued, “As for Si Chen, he is basically the favored heir of the Si Clan. Becoming a Meteor mage two years ago at 18, the elders look upon him highly... In the future, should he rank up to becoming a Silver Moon mage, his status would be even more frightening.”

“Father also said that it is fine if you are not interested in marrying Dong Bo Xue Ying, but it would be better if you could become the wife of Si Chen. He said should this happen, then our Kong Clan could ride on the power of the Si Clan to become one of the most powerful Clans in the entire County.”

Kong Hao curled his lips, “But of course, sister, I’m always supportive of you

regardless of your decision. This father of ours really is too pragmatic, however he added on something along the lines of how hard it is to actually get married with that young master Si Chen at the end!”

“Humph.”

Kong You Yue softly chided, “Father is precisely this kind of person!”

With that single sentence, she affirmed her brother’s observations.

“Ai...”

“Under father’s strict orders, I need to get closer to Dong Bo Xue Ying.” You Yue sighed, “Even though I’ve been trying my best, and the fact is we are actually much closer than before, he still does not acclaim that I’m his girlfriend!”

“He does not like you?” Kong Han asked.

“Not exactly. He’s been too focused on the arts of spear. Other than me and several other female servants within the castle, Xue Ying does not even interact with any of the other young girls outside.” You Yue said, “Though Xue Ying looks cold on the outside, he is actually quite friendly once you get to know him. I believe that over time, if our relationship continues on developing, with his character, we should get wed in the future.”

“Yet being with him is really boring.” You Yue shook her head, “I’m afraid that he still does not know the fact that someone who does not coax a girl is entirely unromantic! Compared to some of my fellow disciples in the Great Mage’s Building, he is totally lacking in this area.”

“Sis, do you not like Dong Bo Xue Ying?” Kong Hao was startled.

“When I first came here years ago, I actually quite admired him. However, over the years as I followed under teacher’s teaching on magic, after understanding how big the world is, I kind of feel that he is quite ordinary. He is just merely a fanatic towards training on his spear techniques.”

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On the roof of the castle.

After entering the state of ‘One with the World’, Xue Ying could see even the expressions on You Yue’s eyes, face and everything clearly. The moment she said

that he is a martial arts fanatic, he saw... no, he FELT how her mouth actually cocked with disdain.

Xue Ying face turned paler and paler.

Indeed, he did not actually love Kong You Yue that much – he did not have that fiery passion to want to spend the rest of his life with her! After all, undertaking any Bronze Order mission was an extremely risky venture that could make him lose his life anytime. Yet being human, they were not cold blooded animals. Spending 6 years together, there ought to be some form of relationship.

Though the moment he heard Kong You Yue's words, Xue Ying did not dare believe this...

"She is actually such a person!"

It was as if his heart was being suppressed by a gigantic rock...

It was overbearing.

He... He was actually the one being deceived all this time! To think that his impression of You Yue was someone who admired him so much that should he want to wed her, it would be a carefree and easy task! But reality was.... Kong You Yue did not even love him genuinely at all.

Right! He himself did not show any interest towards her, and had been focusing on his spear techniques all along. He did not know how to coax her...

"But why would she deceive me all this while...?"

"Damn, damn damn."

Xue Ying's heart was burning with fury. Six years of what seemed to be a simple love, or to a lesser extent, friendship...

Yet he was kept in the dark all along! It had been a guise since the beginning!

"She is such a person." Initially, Xue Ying's impression of You Yue was of someone who was lovely and understanding, yet now he felt that she was extremely... disgusting!

Right.

He did not have a lot of friends, and You Yue could be considered to be one of



his better friends! But he was being deceived by her, with her actually thinking he was a martial arts fanatic.

“Why am I so angry? What is there to be angry about? I was never passionate about her or tempted by her.” Xue Ying had a self-deprecating laugh. Though no matter how much he tried in consoling himself, six years of facade was still something that made him extremely uncomfortable.

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You Yue laughed, “Compared to him, young master Si Chen is much more intelligent and knowledgeable. Even though he acted a bit silly at times, he still had the heart to coax others.”

“Si Chen is chasing after you?” Kong Hao was dumbstruck.

“*Mn.*” You Yue nodded.

Indeed, Kong You Yue had several attractive qualities – her was quite pretty as well as loveable! From youth, she was trained to understand the hearts of other people. With such confidence, under her relentless subtle guidance, young master Si Chen was gradually paying more attention to her and even started chasing after her. Though she had been keeping her distance from him for this period, keeping Si Chen around under her leash.

“You like Si Chen?” Kong Hao was startled once again.

Kong You Yue paused for a bit, before saying, “A bit.”

How was this possible?

How could she fall in love with someone so easily? Though it was a fact that she felt that this ‘Si Chen’ was a much better prey than Dong Bo Xue Ying! He was younger, more handsome, and most importantly, someone with a huge background! On the other side, Xue Ying could be compared to a woodblock, not romantic at all.

“Sis, what are you going to do then?” Kong Hao was curious.

“I haven’t fully decided yet. Let’s see how it goes for now.” You Yue had actually decided long beforehand what she was going to do.

Even if he was her little brother, some things should still be kept a secret!

Otherwise, letting her brother know of her decision would affect his impression of his sister being someone too ruthless and cruel. That wouldn't be good at all.

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Xue Ying gave off a cold aura as he walked on the stone roads inside the castle. None of the servants dared to approach him. They could feel their Lord's mood was not good at this juncture.

In a few moments, Xue Ying reached the door to Kong You Yue's courtyard.

"Bang."

Pressing on the door, the door to the courtyard immediately broke apart. Xue Ying pushed the broken door aside and entered.

"Who is it?" You Yue's voice was still full of warmth and mild curiosity. The moment she and her brother came out from the house, they saw Xue Ying standing right in the middle of the courtyard.

"Brother Xue Ying!" Kong You Yue shouted with joy.

Yet they only saw Dong Bo Xue Ying standing there silently. The atmosphere felt as if it solidified into a form of pressure, causing both brother and sister to tremble.

"I would have never thought that you are actually such a person." Xue Ying spoke in a somewhat hoarse voice, "I know that I'm not a romantic person, and am a fanatic who only knows how to train in spear techniques."

Kong Hao's eyes became wide open.

Kong You Yue was startled as well.

How did he know?

But 'not romantic' and 'martial arts fanatic' precisely implied that Xue Ying somehow knew of what they had been talking a moment ago. Thus, it was pointless covering up the matter.

"Brother Xue Ying, I'm sorry. This was all done under my father's order." You Yue tried explaining, "I really did not want to do it."

Xue Ying only gazed coldly at her.

After understanding 'One with the World', he could clearly observe the expression on Kong You Yue's face before she spoke. The disdain when she proclaimed how he was a martial arts fanatic... that expression was something that he did not see before in the past 6 years. Yet after entering the state of 'One with the World', after seeing that expression once, she could no longer lie to him.

Being gazed upon by Xue Ying, You Yue felt an invisible oppression upon her, making her nervous, and causing turmoil in her previously calm heart. She was someone who understood a person's heart, and thus would know how to react in any scenario. Yet right now, being gazed upon by Xue Ying actually made her totally flustered.

She did not know, this was precisely the pressure caused by one's spirit strength!

After entering 'One with the World', Xue Ying's spirit strength became so strong that under his gaze, the pressure created was no less than more than ten thousands of people staring at a single person!

"I'll leave. I'll leave right at this moment."

Kong You Yue did not explain anymore. She immediately turned back into her home and began packing up her things.

He stood in the courtyard silently. After a short while he saw Kong You Yue and Kong Hao both carrying a trunk each, hurrying out of the place.

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"Miss You Yue."

The soldiers outside the city gate all still greeted her courteously.

You Yue could only force herself to smile, before bringing her brother out of the castle towards the Great Mage's building.

*'How did he discover that I was talking to my little brother?'* You Yue looked backwards at the Snowrock Castle. She knew it was going to be very tough the next time she wanted to enter the castle, *'Without making Si Chen fall hard for me, breaking up with Dong Bo Xue Ying is really not worth it. It would be for the*

*best that I finish the business with Si Chen...'*

*'Forget it. Since he found out, it would be pointless to regret any longer.'*

*'Humph. What is there to be proud of as a martial arts fanatic.'*

*'He is only a big fish in this small Water Rites Town, compared to the Si Clan, what is he? But still, getting a staff and a robe from him is considered not bad after all.'* You Yue thought to herself silently.

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"I can't believe she's such a person. I, Dong Bo Xue Ying am surely blind." With a leap, Xue Ying immediately reached the roof of the castle. He sat there overlooking the entire Snowrock Castle. "Being deceived so easily, it seems that I've interacted with too few people."

"Forget it. Let this be a learning experience for me."

Xue Ying was after all, still a Great Spear Master. After comprehending the state of 'One with the World', his control over the realm of spear techniques became even greater, reaching that of deities.

His mind was as sharp as a spear,

As fast as the cutting blade!

Since this woman actually had the heart to deceive him, chasing her out of the castle would be for the best as he did not want to be entangled up with such matters.

"She is she. I am I. Maybe just like father and mother... finding love in the midst of a life and death situation is more suited for me?" Xue Ying laughed spontaneously, raising his head up as he gulped down bowls of wine. After training his spirit until this particular realm, there was obviously no deep longing feelings towards cutting off the relationship of such ordinary friendship.

"Mn. I've already entered the realm of One with the World. What method would be the best for me to become a Transcendent?" Xue Ying started pondering over the many routes he could take, and the eventual one that would allow him to enter the ranks of Transcendents. It was, after all, the ranks of a Transcendent he had been aiming for all along!

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